

Rampage on Base

12 dead, 31 wounded when U.S. Army officer opens fire at Fort Hood

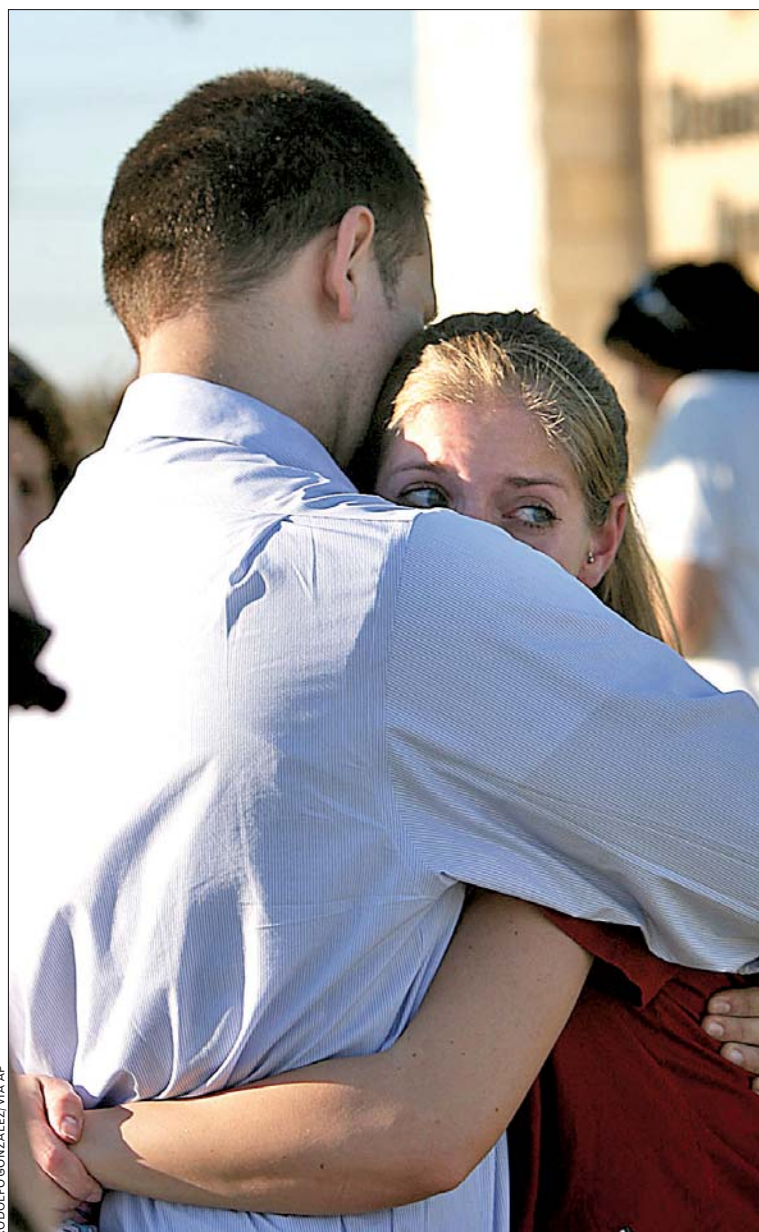
FORT HOOD, TEXAS | An Army major opened fire Thursday with two handguns at the Fort Hood military base in an attack that left 12 people dead and 31 wounded. Authorities killed the gunman and apprehended two other soldiers in what appears to be the worst mass shooting at a U.S. military base.

There was no immediate word on a motive. The shooting began around 1:30 p.m., said Lt. Gen. Bob Cone at Fort Hood. He said all the casualties took place at the base's Soldier Readiness Center, where soldiers who are about to be deployed or who are returning undergo medical screening. "It's a terrible tragedy. It's stunning," Cone said.

A law enforcement official identified the shooting suspect as Army Maj. Malik Nadal Hasan. The official said Hasan, believed to be in his late 30s, was killed after opening fire at the base. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Fort Hood is the U.S. military's largest installation and the only Army post in the United States that houses two divisions. About 65,000 soldiers and family members live on the post. (AP)

❖ **Ongoing Coverage:** For updates on developments in this story, see washingtonpost.com



ANXIOUS MOMENTS: A couple embraces outside the main gate of Fort Hood, which was locked down after Thursday's shooting spree. Their daughter attends school on the base.

320,000 votes later, the results are in! You told us your favorite D.C.-area restaurants, shops, bars, celebrities and more. Now, find out who won.

INSIDE

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'09

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NEWS

It's Interesting Only Because They're Old

An elderly couple from Sarasota County, Fla., is facing felony charges after police say they battered a law enforcement officer trying to execute an arrest warrant. Sarasota Sheriff's Deputies say Clyde and Audrey Chrisman tried to prevent officers from arresting their grandson and a female staying at their home. Both face charges of battery on a law enforcement officer and obstruction of justice. (AP)

MANNERS

How Rude Not to Throw Crudités, Too!

An Idaho woman accused of ramming her pickup into another car, then hurling ranch dressing at the vehicle, has pleaded guilty to aggravated battery. Tiffany Wallace was arrested June 1 after she used her truck to ram a sedan several times over a road rage episode. She also yelled at him and threw coins and plastic containers of ranch dressing at his car. (AP)

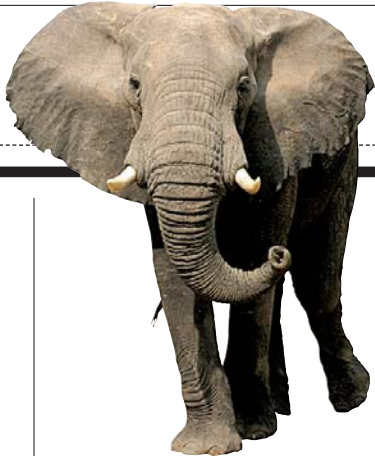


KYLE MILLS/LEWISTON TRIBUNE/AP

WHY?

A Recipe for Disaster

We don't know why, but part of Warner Alliance Church's junior high kids outreach event — which took place Wednesday in Lewiston, Idaho — involved a waterslide covered with chocolate pudding, ice cream, noodles and water. Apparently, cold weather has yet to reach the state. (AP)



GAS-GUZZLERS

SUV Owner Has New Excuse

An Oklahoma couple driving home from church nearly slammed into an elephant that had escaped from a nearby circus late Wednesday. Bill Carpenter said he swerved his SUV at the last second and ended up sideswiping the elephant. The couple weren't injured, but the elephant was being examined Thursday for a broken tusk and a leg wound. It appeared to have escaped major injury. (AP)

GARDENING

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In Brief

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.
Former N.Y.C. Police Chief
Pleads Guilty to Felonies

Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik admitted in court Thursday that he lied to the White House while being considered for chief of Homeland Security. Kerik — hailed as a hero after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks — pleaded guilty to eight felonies, including lying about paying taxes on his children's nanny, hiding income from the Internal Revenue Service and faking a charitable contribution. Kerik faces a maximum sentence of 61 years in prison. (AP)



Kerik

PHILADELPHIA
Packed Train Hits, Kills
Worker as Strike Continues

A packed commuter train struck and killed a rail worker during the morning rush Thursday, disrupting service for three hours and stranding hundreds of riders on a system already crippled by a transit strike. The train was inbound from the city's northern suburbs when it hit the worker around 8:35 a.m., Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority spokesman Richard Maloney said. (AP)

'Kill the Bill!' Becomes Rallying Cry

Conservatives protest in D.C. as health care legislation progresses

WASHINGTON | Chanting "Kill the bill," thousands of conservatives incensed over the Democrats' health care overhaul protested at the Capitol on Thursday, arguing that the legislation amounts to a government takeover of the nation's medical system.

The crowd, invited on national television by Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., was staunchly anti-government — "Politicians lie, people die," read one sign — but loudly cheered the House Republicans who hosted the event. The protest attracted many of the so-called Tea Party demonstrators angry with increased spending and an expanded government role under the Obama administration.

"This bill is the greatest threat to freedom that I have seen," House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio told the crowd.

"We're not going to leave this Hill until we kill this bill," declared



Rep. John Culberson, R-Texas, throws a copy of the Democrats' health care bill into a crowd of demonstrators in Washington.

Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa.

That's highly unlikely. House Democrats hope to pass the sweeping legislation on Saturday, buoyed by endorsements on Thursday from the American Medical Association and the AARP, the powerful seniors lobby. President Obama

will make a final appeal to Democrats during a rare visit to the Capitol Friday.

The demonstrators came to Washington by plane, bus and other means to send a message to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority

Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., as they press ahead with health care legislation.

"It's upsetting because of where we've come from to where we are today, to see our freedom eroding," said Ben Fourman, 72, of Farmingdale, N.J. LAURIE KELLMAN (AP)



TECHNOLOGY Front to Back Air bags have long been mounted in the steering wheel, dashboard and sides of vehicles. Now, they'll soon be in the seat belts. Ford Motor Co. plans to introduce seat belt-mounted air bags in the backseat of the 2011 Ford Explorer sport utility vehicle, which will hit the market next fall. Ford says it's the first automaker to mass-produce the technology. The car sends a signal that releases the bag, which inflates more gently than a front air bag, so it's safer for kids. Ford has been working on the technology for a decade. (AP)

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Nation

Missing Baby Found Alive

7-month-old child was stashed in a box under her sitter's bed

CHIPLEY, FLA. | Investigators spent five days searching dense vines and marshes for a missing infant, only to find her lying quietly in a 2-foot by 3-foot cedar box that had been shoved under her baby sitter's bed.

Clothing was packed around it to muffle any sounds and baking powder placed inside to mask the stench of dirty diapers.

Authorities said the baby's mother, Chrystina Lynn Mercer, gave the infant to baby sitter Susan Elizabeth Baker early Saturday, then reported her missing.

Rebecca Padgett, left, caresses her niece, Shannon Dedrick, in Chipley, Fla.

Washington County Sheriff Bobby Haddock choked up Thursday as he described how 7-month-old Shannon Dedrick was stashed in the box for 12 straight hours before investigators discovered

her late Wednesday.

"She was way back under the bed," he said. "But she was not crying."

Baker had written a letter to Gov. Charlie Crist's office in August, pleading for help for the baby and claiming her father shook her and both parents did drugs in front of her. She asked Mercer a week ago if she could have permanent custody, Haddock said.

Haddock said Shannon apparently had been fed and cared for while she was with Baker.

"Once we got [to] the hospital, five or six of us called our wives to let them know that we found the child and a lot grown men were shedding tears," Haddock said.

MELISSA NELSON (AP)

PITTSBURGH | NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WON'T YOU BE A STATUE?: People applaud Thursday during the unveiling of a statue of the late Fred Rogers, the long-time host of the PBS children's show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." The statue by renowned sculptor Robert Berks depicts the children's television pioneer changing his shoes, as he did for decades at the beginning of his popular program.

MUSEUMS The Ball Gets Its Due Bounce it, kick it, catch it. Chase, throw or smack it. The ball, arguably the most popular plaything of all time, has finally earned a place inside a glass case at the National Toy Hall of Fame in New York. The Strong National Museum of Play chose the ball — along with the Big Wheel and the Game Boy — Thursday to join its lineup of 41 classic toys. (AP)

Home Buyer Tax Credit Extended

Benefit will now be available to people who aren't new buyers

WASHINGTON | Missed out on Cash for Clunkers? Congress has another deal for you: Buy a home before May 1 and collect up to \$6,500 from the government. If you're a first-time home buyer, get up to \$8,000.

As part of the government's efforts to encourage people to spend money to help revive the economy, the House voted 403-12 Thursday to expand a popular tax credit for home buyers. The bill, which also extends unemploy-



Congress is trying to fuel an economic rebound with tax credits for home buyers.

ment benefits and expands a tax break for money-losing businesses, now goes to President Obama, who

plans to sign it Friday.

First-time home buyers have been getting tax credits of up to

\$8,000 since January as part of the economic stimulus package. But with that housing program scheduled to expire at the end of November, the House voted to extend it into the spring — and to expand it to many people who already own homes.

Buyers who have owned their current homes at least five years would be eligible, subject to income limits, for tax credits of up to \$6,500. First-time home buyers — or people who haven't owned homes in the previous three years — could get up to \$8,000. To qualify, buyers have to sign purchase agreements before May 1 and close before July 1.

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER (AP)

Census Worker's Death May Have Been a Suicide

WASHINGTON | Investigators probing the death of a U.S. census worker found hanging from a tree with the word "fed" scrawled on his chest increasingly doubt he was killed because of his government job and are pursuing the possibility he committed suicide, law enforcement officials said.

Two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators have grown more skeptical in recent weeks that 51-year-old Bill Sparkman died at the hands of someone angry at the federal government.

The officials said there were no defensive wounds on Sparkman's body, and while his hands were bound with duct tape, they were still somewhat mobile, suggesting he could have manipulated the rope. (AP)

CONSPIRACIES **An Authentic Oswald?** The infamous photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald holding a rifle in his backyard would have been nearly impossible to fake, according to a new analysis by a Dartmouth College professor. Oswald, who was fatally shot days after being charged in the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, claimed the photo of him holding a rifle in one hand and Marxist newspapers in the other had been doctored. But professor Hany Farid says it's "extremely unlikely" that the photograph is a fake. (AP)

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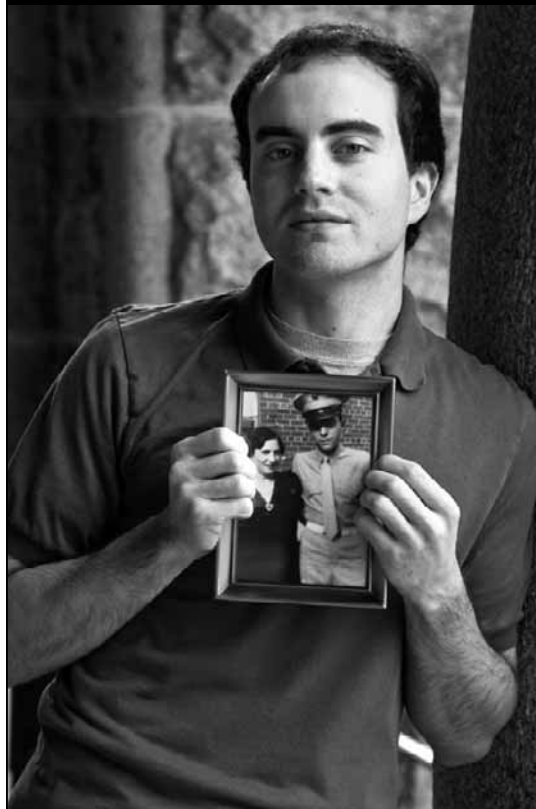
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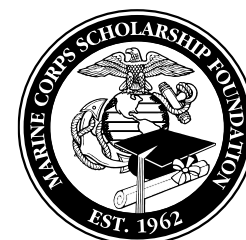
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In Brief



ICC head Luis Moreno Ocampo, left, speaks next to Kenyan President Kibaki.

NAIROBI, KENYA

ICC to Probe Kenya Unrest

The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said Thursday that Kenya's postelection violence that killed more than 1,000 people was a crime against humanity and pledged to initiate proceedings that could result in top officials facing trial. Luis Moreno Ocampo said he will ask the Netherlands-based ICC judges to allow him to formally investigate the violence. (AP)

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

President Lugo Hit With Third Paternity Claim

A third woman has filed a paternity claim against Paraguay's Roman Catholic bishop-turned-president, her lawyer said Thursday. Hortensia Damiana Moran, 40, who worked on President Fernando Lugo's election campaign, went public with her claim a year ago but at the time did not file a formal claim on behalf of her son. (AP)

Abbas: No Desire for Re-Election

Palestinian president says he's discouraged by stalled peace talks

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK | The Palestinian president said Thursday he does not want to run for another term in the January elections, blaming a stalemate in Mideast peace talks on Israel and the United States.



Abbas

In a televised speech to Palestinians, Mahmoud Abbas said he has told his "brothers" in the Fatah movement of his "desire not to run in the upcoming elections."

But Abbas' careful wording left room for the possibility that he could be persuaded to change his mind, especially if he perceives the U.S. as backing his position on demanding an end to Israeli construction in the West Bank.

Abbas' tenuous internal political position would make it difficult for him to agree to peace talks



West Bank supporters of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas protest against his decision not to run for another term.

without an Israeli settlement construction freeze. His Hamas rivals would likely jump on a capitulation to embarrass him.

The Palestinian leader's decision, reported earlier in the day by his aides, had set off a flurry of calls from regional leaders, with the presidents of Egypt and Israel, the king of Jordan and Israel's

defense minister all urging him change his mind.

Abbas has threatened before not to run for re-election in the Jan. 24 balloting.

In his speech Thursday evening, he said, "I have told my brothers in the [Fatah] executive committee and central committee of my desire not to run."

Abbas said at first he was encouraged by the Obama administration's policy on the Middle East but then "we were surprised by its embracing of the Israeli position."

He said settlement construction must stop, but "Israel and especially its current government rejects this." MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH (AP)



MYSTERIES Fur Coats Are So Last Winter Keepers at the Leipzig Zoo in Germany are befuddled by the balding of three spectacled bears under their care, the BBC reported. As winter approaches, the bears are losing nearly all of their fur. Hundreds more people than usual have visited the zoo to view the bears, named Dolores, Bianca and Lolita. In the meantime, the zoo's staff has been reaching out to experts around the world to try to determine why the bears are balding and to find a solution. (EXPRESS)

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World

Hurricane Hits Nicaragua Coast

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA | Hurricane Ida ripped into Nicaragua's Atlantic coast Thursday, destroying homes, damaging schools and downing bridges before losing steam and becoming a tropical storm.

Ida, clocking 75 mph winds, struck land around sunrise in Tasbapauni, about 60 miles northeast of Bluefields, said meteorologist Dennis Feltgen of the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

About 80 percent of homes were destroyed in nearby Karawala, a fishing village of about 100 flimsy, wooden shacks near the mouth of the Rio Grande de Matagalpa, Nicaragua's National Civil Defense director, Mario Perez, said.

No deaths or injuries have been reported, but Perez said officials are still trying to get information from the region. (AP)

U.N. Relocates Hundreds of Staff

Temporary move of Afghanistan staff follows deadly attack

KABUL | The United Nations said Thursday that it will send more than half its international staff either out of Afghanistan or into more secure compounds following last week's deadly Taliban attack against U.N. workers — the most direct targeting of its employees during decades of work in the country.

About 600 nonessential staffers will be affected by the move, the U.N. said. The announcement came as the head of the U.N. mission issued a stern warning to newly re-elected Afghan President Hamid Karzai that he must crack down on corruption and initiate reform or risk losing global support.



The United Nations house that was attacked by the Taliban in Kabul is seen through bullet-riddled glass. The U.N. said it will move many workers out of Afghanistan.

The U.N. is still reeling from the pre-dawn assault on a guest-house in the capital that left five of its staffers dead.

The world body insists it remains committed to Afghanistan, but its actions show how much security has degraded in

the country and raise questions about the future of its work if attacks continue.

The relocations follow a U.N. decision on Monday to suspend much of its work in the volatile northwest of neighboring Pakistan because of increasingly targeted attacks.

The 600 U.N. employees will be moved for three to four weeks to more secure locations both within and outside of Afghanistan while the world body works to find safer permanent housing, spokesman Aleem Siddique said. He said they did not know how many would actually be leaving the country.

"We are not talking about pulling out," the head of the mission, Norwegian diplomat Kai Eide, told reporters. "We are not talking about evacuation." HEIDI VOGT (AP)

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BERLIN | U2 'WALL' SPURS CONTROVERSY



BLOCKED: Spectators try to see a stage in front of Brandenburg Gate before a U2 concert in Berlin on Thursday. Fans without free tickets to the show were enraged that a nearly six-and-a-half-foot-tall barrier prevented them from watching the concert to mark the 20th anniversary of the Berlin Wall.

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Saudis Launch Assault in Yemen

Military incursion is apparently meant to quell Shiite rebellion

SAN'A, YEMEN | Saudi Arabia sent fighter jets and artillery bombardments across the border into northern Yemen Thursday in a military incursion apparently aimed at helping its troubled southern neighbor control an escalating Shiite rebellion, Arab diplomats and the rebels said.

The Saudis — owners of a sophisticated air force they rarely use — have been increasingly worried that extremism and instability in Yemen could spill over to their

REGIONAL CONFLICT
A Shiite rebellion in Yemen's Saada province is the apparent target of a Saudi offensive.



country, the world's largest oil exporter. The offensive came two days after the killing of a Saudi sol-

dier, blamed on the rebels.

Yemen denied any military action by Saudi Arabia inside its borders. But Yemen's president is a key ally of the Saudis, making it highly unlikely the kingdom would have launched the offensive without tacit Yemeni agreement.

A U.S. government official said the Yemenis were not involved militarily in the fighting. The official spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The offensive raised concerns of another proxy war in the Mideast between Iran and Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally. Shiite Iran is thought to favor the rebels in Yemen and

Saudi Arabia, which is Sunni, is Iran's fiercest regional rival.

The rebels said the Saudi airstrikes hit five areas in their northern stronghold Thursday, but it was not possible to independently verify the reports. They said there were dead and wounded, and that homes were destroyed.

"Saudi jets dropped bombs on a crowded area including a local market in the northern province of Saada," Hawththi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam told The Associated Press. "They claim they are targeting al-Hawthis, but regrettably they are killing civilians like the government does."

AHMED AL-HAJ AND SALAH NASRAWI (AP)

MOSCOW | REHEARSAL



MEANINGFUL MARCH: Soldiers march in a parade rehearsal Thursday. The event marks the 68th anniversary of a Nov. 7 parade when soldiers went directly from Red Square to the front during World War II.

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The Lotteries

Thursday, Nov. 5

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-2-4
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	9-5-8
Mid-day DC 4	5-7-2-1
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	5-2-6-2
Mid-day D.C. Five	8-2-9-7-7
Evening D.C. Five (Wed.)	6-9-7-3-3
Daily 6 (Wed.)	4-11-18-23-25-35 (19)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	6-11-13-17-38 (18)

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	3-5-5
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-2-2
Mid-day Pick 4	5-7-7-3
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-1-2-9
Match 5 (Wed.)	3-8-14-28-39 (30)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	3-5-11-24-25-28

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3	8-4-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	7-4-3
Mid-day Pick 4	0-7-4-6
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-8-1-3
Mid-day Cash 5	2-18-27-32-33
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	8-18-20-28-33
Win For Life (Wed.)	4-9-19-26-34-36 (23)

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Powerball (Wed.)	10-11-14-45-51 (17)
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Emotions Vary Over Sniper's Death

Some of 2002 victims' kin will witness D.C. shooter's execution

RICHMOND, VA. | Some ache for revenge, others simply for justice. There is frustration, too, and defiance.

For the three wounded by the D.C. snipers and for the relatives of the 10 killed, the emotions leading up to the execution of the mastermind behind the 2002 attacks vary as widely as those who found themselves in the cross hairs.

John Allen Muhammad, 48, is set to die by injection in a Virginia prison Tuesday, seven years after he and his teenage accomplice terrorized the area in and around the nation's capital for three weeks.

Some family members can't wait to see Muhammad take his final breath. Others plan to make the trip to Virginia but never step foot on prison grounds.

And there are those who plan to spend the night at home with their families, satisfied that Muham-



Robert Meyers shows pictures of his brother Dean Harold Meyers, who John Allen Muhammad killed. Muhammad is set to be executed Tuesday for killing 10 people.

mad is paying for what he's done but indifferent as to how it will happen.

For Nelson M. Rivera and Marion Lewis, watching Muhammad's execution will be the closest they will ever come to revenge.

"I feel like it's going to be the last chapter of this book, and I want

to see what his expression on his face is. I want to see his face and see how he likes that — confronting his death," Rivera said.

"For the hurt, the pain that he's caused my family, I'd like to be his executioner, period," Lewis said.

Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, who was Rivera's wife and Lewis'

daughter, was killed as she vacuumed her van at a Kensington, Md., gas station.

Robert Meyers takes some solace in knowing that Muhammad's execution is out of his hands.

“For the hurt ... he's caused my family, I'd like be his executioner, period.”

MARION LEWIS, WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS KILLED IN MUHAMMAD'S SPREE.

He and his wife, Lori, plan to be in the witness booth, but not out of any bloodthirsty lust to watch his brother's killer meet his maker.

"The reason why this life is going to be taken has everything to do with choices that he made and the process that those choices took him through," said Meyers, 56, of Perkiomenville, Pa.

Meyers said he owed it to his brother, Dean Harold Meyers, to be there and that he also wanted to be there for other victims' families. DENA POTTER (AP)

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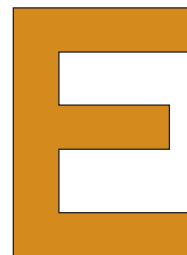
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GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James visits his potential home as his Cavs travel to New York Saturday.

friday

7:30 P.M. The Capitals will be without Alex Ovechkin once more as they battle the Panthers. CSN+

7 P.M. After a tough loss to the Heat, the Wizards look to rebound against the Pacers in Indiana. CSN

8 P.M. Undefeated Boise State takes on Louisiana Tech. ESPN2

8 P.M. LeBron James and the Cavaliers visit Madison Square Garden to face off against the Knicks. ESPN

10:30 P.M. The new-look Spurs get an early season test as they take the court against the Trailblazers. ESPN

saturday

10 A.M. In an English Premier league matchup, Tottenham Hotspur and Sunderland take the pitch. ESPN2

2:30 P.M. Navy heads to South Bend to square off against Jimmy Clausen and Notre Dame. NBC

7:30 P.M. The Caps and Panthers clash again, this time in D.C. CSN

sunday

1 P.M. The Wizards host Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns. CSN

1 P.M. The Ravens travel to Cincinnati to play the AFC North-leading Bengals. CBS

3:15 P.M. With just three races left in the Sprint Cup Series, NASCAR heads to Fort Worth, Texas. ABC

8:15 P.M. In an NFC East matchup, the Cowboys battle the Eagles. NBC



JOHN MCDONNELL/TWP

The Redskins have the advantage of playing the Falcons, losers of two straight, who practiced on a short week after a 35-27 loss against the Saints Monday on night.

The Redskins are rested. Can they regroup?

Team gets a breather with the toughest part of schedule still ahead

Everyone needs a break.

A vacation. A snow day. Some creative use of sick leave. That said, the Redskins might have been content to extend their bye week to next September.

Last week's bye brought a period where no punts ricocheted off face masks, no opposing receivers ran wild in the secondary, and no team officials had to make a public statement about the status of the head coach.

Unfortunately, that might have made it the Redskins' best week of

the season to date.

"It was good for a lot of the players and even the coaches just to get a breather, regroup," coach Jim Zorn said. "Our players have done a wonderful job of practicing with enthusiasm."



With their playoff hopes approaching statistically impossible, the Redskins are left to play for pride against one of the toughest remaining schedules in the league. Washington will play eight of its final nine games against teams

with expectations of making the playoffs. While those opponents might not all get to the post-season, they're all likely looking at the Redskins as a team they can beat. No team on that schedule may need to win more than this week's opponent, Atlanta (4-3).

The visit to Atlanta sets up an interesting scenario: While many teams seem to look sharper coming off a bye, that often has just as much to do with their opponents' having to play the previous week while they rested. The Redskins get an extra advantage there, as Atlanta — loser of two straight — is coming off a short week in which they played the Monday night game at New Orleans.

3 of 4

The Redskins' recent winning streak in games after bye weeks — they lost last season.

8 of 9

The number of teams the Redskins will face during the second half of the season with realistic playoff chances.

While the Redskins have won three of their last four games coming off bye weeks, Zorn says little has changed in the Redskins' philosophy.

Same scheme, new results? If not, well, they'll always have the bye week.

"It was an opportunity to rest and get away and have the opportunity to spend time with our families," defensive end Andre Carter said. ERIC BRANDNER



NBA Big Baby Backfield ESPN.com reported that Glen Davis says he plans to play in the NFL upon retiring from basketball. The Celtics forward stands 6-foot-9 and weighs 290 pounds. He was a star football player at University Laboratory High School in Baton Rouge, La., playing defensive tackle, defensive end and tailback. Davis said he doesn't care what position he plays, but noted that he wants to achieve NBA greatness before making the transition to the gridiron. Davis is currently out of action with a broken thumb.

sports

college kickoffs

ALL GAMES ON SATURDAY

No. 9 LSU at No. 3 Alabama

THE STORY: The winner has the inside track to Florida in the SEC championship game.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Heisman front-runner **MARK INGRAM** could find it tough sledding against a stout LSU run defense. (3:30 P.M., CBS)



No. 16 Ohio State at No. 11 Penn State

THE STORY: Each team has suffered one Big Ten loss; neither can afford another if it wants to keep pace with unbeaten Iowa.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Penn State tailback **EVAN ROYSTER** hopes to break some big plays against the tough Buckeye defense. (3:30 P.M., ABC)



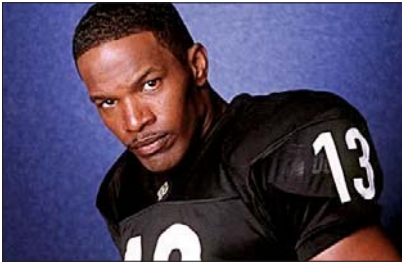
No. 12 USC at Arizona State

THE STORY: Tailback **JOE MCKNIGHT** and USC have doubters questioning their PAC-10 supremacy.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR: Arizona State's defensive front will have its hands full trying to stop the explosive rushing attack of USC (8 P.M., ABC)



THE REDSKINS WILL WIN IF ...



1 Jason Campbell can conjure up his inner Willie Beamen. He'll need to imbibe a dose of Beamen's famous invisible juice in order to evade the Falcons' pass rush and eliminate the turnovers that have plagued the Redskins' offense thus far this season.



2 They can avoid being hit by a blizzard. Matt Ryan and Roddy White will look to blanket the Redskins with an early winter storm. If Haynesworth and company can apply some heat on the Falcons' passing attack, a thawed-out 'Matty Ice' will struggle.



3 Clinton Portis gets at least 20 carries. Though the Redskins' offense has struggled thus far this season, Portis is averaging a respectable 4.1 yards per attempt. If he has 20 touches or more, it means that the Redskins' offense is controlling the game.

3 UP 3 DOWN

How the Redskins could win — or lose — this week

THE REDSKINS WILL LOSE IF ...



1 DeAngelo Hall forgets which team he's playing for. After playing his first four seasons in Atlanta, Hall will be called upon to contain his former team. If Ryan is able beat the former Falcon with too much frequency, Hall may revert back to his Raiders form.



2 Michael Turner rediscovers his All-Pro form from a year ago. The Falcons tailback is averaging just four yards per carry compared to 4.5 last year. If Atlanta can get Turner into the secondary, look for the Falcons to control time of possession and the scoreboard.



3 Tony Gonzalez gets loose in the Redskins' secondary. The All-Pro tight end has been a favorite target of Ryan's so far this year. If he catches a plethora of third-down passes to help move the chains for the Falcons, it'll be a long day for the Redskins' defense. TYLER GREEN

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Embattled Terps Eye Better Days

Rough year results in on-the-job training for young UMd. team

TERPS FOOTBALL | Their 2-6 record is undeniably disappointing and, with the declining crowds at Byrd Stadium, the vigor and enthusiasm that radiated from Ralph Friedgen earlier in the season has dissipated.

And though the Maryland coach points out that the team can still challenge for the ACC title, he understands that the importance of the final games is in the continued development of young players.



Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen, center, said of his 2-6 team, "I think it's time they start winning. I think you learn a lot more from winning than you do [from] losing."

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP

"We've played a lot of guys," he said. "I think down the road that will pay big-time dividends."



The coach then began rattling off names of underclassmen who are learning on the job.

"I think it's time they start winning," Friedgen said. "I think you learn a lot more from winning than you do losing."

An injury to All-ACC running back Da'Rell Scott forced 5-foot-7, 180-pound Caleb Porzell onto

the field during what he thought would be his redshirt season. So far, he's found the transition to the college game difficult, gaining just 48 yards on 24 carries, most of which came in two sloppy-weather games.

The Terrapins (1-3 in the ACC) travel to North Carolina State (3-5, 0-4) on Saturday.

And though a roster short on experience has yielded few tangible results, Friedgen and the players view the final four games as an opportunity to regain some enthusiasm for the program.

"There's something to look forward to in years to come," Porzell said.

"Seeing a bunch of young guys on the field and seeing, 'Wow, they can play with the older guys,' it's encouraging." **DEREK TURNER**

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 REDSKINS (PLUS 10) AT FALCONS	FALCONS The only reason I even watch the Redskins anymore is for my job.	FALCONS Snyder's Cash for Clunkers has no shot. Falcons come out smelling like a rose.	FALCONS Many will be waiting to see if the Redskins righted the ship during the bye week.	FALCONS A loss here would really hurt the Redskins' playoff chances.
 RAVENS (MINUS 3) AT BENGALS	RAVENS A rare collective mental meltdown is the only reason Cincy won last time.	RAVENS After dominating Denver, I expect no letup against the Bengals.	BENGALS Baltimore looked great last week, but a slight advantage to Cincinnati at home.	RAVENS Cincy used up all its points against the Bears last week.
 COWBOYS (PLUS 3) AT EAGLES	EAGLES Want to see two wideouts who both contribute? Check Philly, not Dallas.	COWBOYS I hate to say it, but the Cowboys are on the rise. The Eagles are still seesawing.	EAGLES Romo and Dallas looked good, too, but another home team advantage.	COWBOYS If it's early November, that means it's Tony Romo time.
 STEELERS (MINUS 3) AT BRONCOS	STEELERS Mike Tomlin is going to own Josh McDaniels style-wise and with his team.	BRONCOS Was Denver exposed last week? Expect the Broncos to bounce back.	STEELERS This is a must-win for the Steelers to keep pace in their division.	STEELERS Broncos get my "most likely to collapse" award.
 CHARGERS (PLUS 4) AT GIANTS	GIANTS A word to describe Tom Coughlin's practices this week: brutal.	CHARGERS I have no faith in Norv — ever! But the Giants have serious problems.	GIANTS This is a good opportunity for N.Y. to beat a team of note this season.	GIANTS Three out of four NFC East teams have winning records!

SEASON TALLY | Matt Swenson: 26-12; Clinton Yates: 20-18; Celebrity Guests: Angie Goff: 24-14; Dan Steinberg: 14-18; Brett Haber: 10-5

Rodriguez Finally Earns His Stripes

Yankees 3B slugger exorcises postseason demons, wins a title

BASEBALL | Alex Rodriguez grabbed the World Series trophy and wouldn't let go.

After six seasons of hits and home runs, heartaches and headaches, he finally earned his pin-stripes in the eyes of the fans the only way Yankees can — with a title.

He arrived at spring training embarrassed after being labeled a steroid user and ended the season under a shower of champagne.

"Look, a lot of people ran the other way. My teammates and coaches and organization stood right next to me. And now we stand

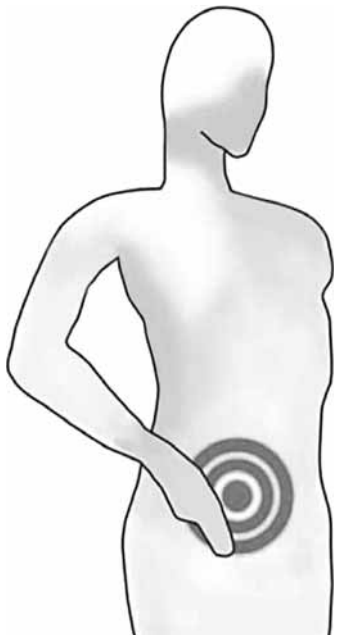


NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Melky Cabrera, right, parties with Alex Rodriguez after their World Series win.

together as world champs," he said. "It's been a special year."

Rodriguez led the Yankees in the post-season with a .365 average, six homers, 18 RBI, 15 runs and 12 walks. (AP)



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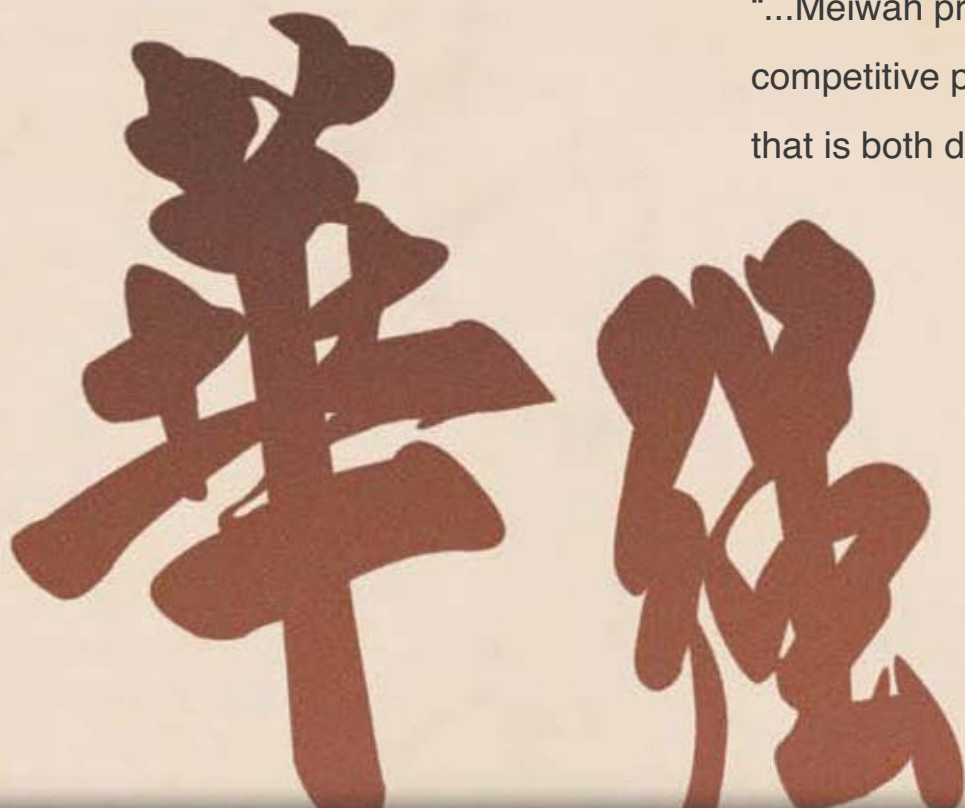
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BEST BAR & BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR**The Wonderland Ballroom**

Make like a regular and just call it “Wonderland.” “It’s an extension of our living room, which is what a neighborhood bar should be,” says Rose Donna, who co-owns the bar with her husband, Matt McGovern (they live two houses down).

SINGLES, TAKE NOTE: At least five marriages have resulted from Wonderland encounters. R.M.

→ 101 Kenyon St. NW; 202-232-5263; Thewonderlandballroom.com

BEST BAR FOOD
Chef Geoff’s

Bar fare usually means “eat at your own risk.” Not at Chef Geoff’s, where the bar menu features, among other items, innovative pizzas ranging from Jamaican jerk chicken to steak and blue cheese. Cheeseburgers priced at \$5.95 and 24 beers on tap also lure a devoted audience of students and young professionals.

SUPER-SIZE ME: Thirsty patrons can try Chef Geoff’s beer in its signature 34-ounce Super mug. R.M.
→ Multiple locations; Chefgeoff.com

BEST BARTENDER
Mara Barmak, Caddies on Cordell

What’s the one thing that irks D.C.’s favorite bartender? “I hate the random shooters that people make up names for that have 13 different things in it,” says Barmak, who’s served up drinks to her regulars at Caddies on Cordell for four years. She attributes her popularity to her social nature: “I’m just friendly. I can talk to anyone,” Barmak says.

D.C.-INSPIRED DRINK: The Caps fan would make an “Ovechkin” — vodka, peach schnapps, cranberry juice and pineapple. R.M.

→ 4922 Cordell Ave., Bethesda; 301-215-7730; Caddiesoncordell.com

BEST DIVE BAR
Solly’s U Street Tavern

“It’s open and welcoming for everyone,” says Solly’s bartender Doug Kennedy. “We’ve got the best cross-section of people. Everyone seems

MARA BARMAK**CADDIES ON CORDELL**

MARGEE/EXPRESS

WHAT MAKES A GREAT BARTENDER?

You have to cater to everyone’s needs, but have fun and play around with them. You’ve got to be able to give it back when they give it to you. Entertain them a little bit.

WHAT ARE YOUR SPORTS TEAMS?

Caps. I’m big on the Caps. And the Redskins, I guess. I work in a sports bar, and I love sports, so the conversation just flows.

ANY OTHER D.C. BARTENDER WHO DESERVES A “BEST OF” NOD?

Kevin at Caddies, my favorite! He’s the best person to work with ever. We play off each other.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST BARTENDING JOB?

I worked at [Bethesda’s] Willie and Reeds as a waitress for a year, but when I went into bartending, it was really when I went to Caddies. I guess I never wanted to leave here.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE COCKTAIL TO MAKE?

Long Island Iced Tea. It keeps people away from the bar for a little longer because it’s strong. R.M.

to just get along.” While the bar is known as a place to have a friendly drink from a friendly barkeep, Solly’s also hosts local bands on its upstairs stage.

BARGAIN BREW: Solly’s is the biggest seller of Pabst Blue Ribbon in the District (and it’s always \$3). R.M.

→ 1942 11th St. NW; 202-232-6590; Sollystavern.com

BEST HAPPY HOUR
The Front Page

Not even Taco Bell has a deal this good. Every Thursday is taco night at the D.C. Front Page location: three tacos for \$1 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with \$2 Miller Lite and Corona bottles from 4 p.m. to close. “For years, we’ve been known for it,” says Michelle Hebert, a manager at the Dupont Circle location. “We try to make it as fun as we can.”

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: The name comes from owner Dick Heidenberger, who collected 120 historic newspaper fronts to decorate his first location. R.G.

→ 1333 New Hampshire Ave. NW; 202-296-6500; Frontpagerestaurant.com & 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-9990; Frontpagearlington.com

BEST IRISH BAR
Fadó Irish Pub

With several distinct rooms — a cottage area, a Victorian section, a Dublin-style pub — Fadó tries to emulate as many aspects of Ireland as it can. And if you visit the D.C. location during a European soccer or rugby match, it’ll feel like it, especially if England is playing Ireland. “That’s when the pub really comes alive,” says owner Greg Algie.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: Fadó was built in Ireland, then shipped to Washington in pieces. R.G.

→ 808 7th St. NW; 202-789-0066; Fadoirishpub.com

BEST SINGLES BAR
Local 16

What’s the secret to enticing D.C.’s single scenesters? A rooftop. “The patio attracts a crowd of singles,” says manager Joe Steger. With two levels, a dance floor and a trendy U Street crowd, the spot offers ample opportunities to practice your pickup lines.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: “A lot of people don’t even know that we



LAWRENCE LUK

Nellie’s Sports Bar

900 U St. NW; 202-332-6355; Nelliessportsbar.com

BEST GAY BAR

“Excuse me, drag queen: Can you heel it one step to the left? The Caps game is on.” Since 2007, Nellie’s has welcomed sports-loving gays and all others who enjoy a year-round patio and a drink after work. “We have one of the best happy hours, called ‘Beat the Clock,’ with house vodka and beer,” says operations manager Jose Sanmartan. The specials start at \$1 a pop with the price increasing by \$1 every hour from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: Nellie’s sponsors 13 local sports teams, including the Rainbow Spinnakers Sailing Club and Flaming Football. R.M.

serve food,” Steger says. R.M.

→ 1602 U St. NW; 202-265-2828; Local sixteen.com

BEST SPORTS BAR
Penn Quarter Sports Tavern

Alumni rule at Penn Quarter Sports Tavern, where groups from schools big and small come to cheer for their teams on the bar’s 19 55- to 60-inch high-def TVs. “Hands down, it’s the atmosphere” that draws the crowds, says marketing and events coordinator Matt Hunter. “Saturdays get a little crazy in here.”

YOU CAN’T GET IT ANYWHERE ELSE: Hunter says PQST is the only area bar that shows college hockey

games, whose fans are “as fanatical as people can be.” R.G.

→ 639 Indiana Ave. NW; 202-347-7939; Dcsportstavern.com

BEST RESTAURANT
Zaytinya

This D.C. favorite’s Middle Eastern-inspired small-plate fare allows diners to try myriad dishes before they’re too full for dessert. General manager Micki Schlechting recommends the htipiti: “It is the most incredible spread. You can’t come here and not have it: marinated roasted red pepper, feta and thyme.”

BRUSH WITH FAME: Schlechting estimates that TV or movie stars



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Zaytinya.com

BEST NEW RESTAURANT & BEST COCKTAILS Founding Farmers

The food's not the only amazing thing about Founding Farmers, where the origin of every item is listed on the menu. The creative cocktails are also something special. (That's the bacon-garnished "The Bone," below.) All the mixologists have been trained "to highlight the taste of alcohol instead of trying to cover it up," says general manager Christian Holmes.



SERVING SUGGESTION: Holmes recommends sipping on the bourbon-based, citrusy Farmer Jon before ordering up the Spicy Ahi Tuna Poke. κ.ε.
→ 1924 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-822-8783; Wearefoundingfarmers.com

BEST 24-HOUR EATERY The Diner

It's 3 a.m. "People are looking for eggs," says Jesse Hamilton, general manager. "They go for the Diner Royale — the full breakfast experi-

ence." The dish — with two eggs; two pancakes or French toast; a choice of meat; toast and coffee — is the most popular on the menu.
DRESS CODE: You have "the right to wear running shorts, pajamas or last night's clothes to Sunday brunch." R.M.
→ 2453 18th St. NW; 202-232-8800;
Trystdc.com/diner

BEST AMERICAN FOOD & BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR PARENTS Old Ebbitt Grill

"Rents in the 'hood? Head to the place where Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt chowed down on their favorite American dishes. "It's like the girl you want to take home to mom, but in reverse," says general manager Kyle Gaffney.
LOVE IS IN THE AIR: "There are probably two or three wedding proposals as week," Gaffney says. R.M.
→ 675 15th St. NW; 202-347-4800;
Ebbitt.com

BEST BAKERY Cakelove

It all started when Warren Brown left a career in law to open his first bakery in 2002. While the local chain is renowned for its cupcakes, it also serves up whole cakes, eclairs, brownies, cookies, scones, bedrolls and even chocolate-covered strawberries. Elastic waistbands are recommended while visiting.
BY THE NUMBERS: Cakelove used 56,000 pounds of butter to make its treats last year. R.M.
→ Multiple locations; Cakelove.com

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Dear Dan Snyder,

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Duffy's Irish Pub
2106 Vermont Ave., NW,
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www.duffysdc.com

BEST BARBECUE Rocklands

Every one of Rocklands' four locations goes through a cord of wood every week — that's 128 cubic feet. That's because the company uses only wood to smoke its ribs, brisket and chicken. "Barbecue's a process of cooking. It's not about some sauce thrown on at the end," says owner John Snedden. "I'm not looking to get something that tastes like pot roast."

VINEGAR OR KETCHUP? Not one to take sides in the sauce debate, Snedden's signature sauce is a cross between North Carolina and Florida styles: tomato-based but heavy on the vinegar. R.K.

→ Multiple locations; Rocklands.com

BEST BRUNCH Tabard Inn

Named for the setting of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," the Tabard Inn is a staple for hungry Washingtonians seeking eggs, pancakes and fresh-out-of-the-fryer donuts. Owner Jeremiah Cohen recommends the hollandaise sauce or the breakfast potatoes.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: The Tabard may be haunted. Employees have reported seeing a ghostly male figure walking through walls.

→ 1739 N St. NW; 202-331-8528; Tabardinn.com

BEST BURGER Five Guys

Even though Five Guys now has 499 branches nationwide, the first store opened in Arlington in 1986, which gives us bragging rights forever. The flavorful fries and burgers are fresh, never frozen (no, seriously — they don't even have freezers). It's that "fanatical devotion to quality" that makes the chain so beloved, says Mary Nowinski, brand manager for Five Guys Enterprises.

BY THE NUMBERS: Five Guys has gone through 82 million pounds of potatoes so far in 2009. K.E.

→ Multiple locations; Fiveguys.com

BEST CHINESE Meiwah

A veritable Washington powerhouse, Meiwah counts senators, media luminaries and celebrities among its clientele. (Bill Clinton is said to have sworn by the place.)

"We use a lot of good raw material," owner Larry La says. "The customers in D.C. are very sophisticated. They know what is what. They don't choose [just] by price."

OWNER'S FAVE: When La wants an authentic Chinese experience outside his own place, Full Key in Wheaton hits the spot. R.K.

→ 1200 New Hampshire Ave. NW; 202-833-2888 & 4457 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase; 301-652-9882; Meiwahrestaurant.com

BEST COMFORT FOOD & BEST MEAL UNDER \$20 Ben's Chili Bowl

There's a reason that Ben's is a name that doesn't wear out. "It's about the atmosphere and the history of the restaurant," says manager Maurice Harcum. "We give value to the community." The 24/7 joint has been serving up chili half-smokes, burgers and dogs since 1958. And Ben's has a cool catchphrase: "From a pit bull to a ballpark frank, our chili can make any dog bark."

BY THE NUMBERS: Ben's Chili Bowl served 555 gallons of chili during inauguration week. R.M.

→ 1213 U St. NW; 202-667-0909; Benschilibowl.com

BEST CUPCAKE Georgetown Cupcake

You have to taste a lot of cupcakes to get it right, says co-owner Sophie LaMontagne. "We probably eat one to five every day for quality control." The store's offerings come in almost every flavor imaginable; gingerbread and snowball cupcakes are on the menu for December.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: Of 60 staffers, just two besides LaMontagne and sister Kathryn Kallinas know the secret recipes. R.K.



Rasika

633 D St. NW; 202-637-1222; Rasikarestaurant.com

BEST INDIAN

It's modern, it's traditional, and it's in a class by itself. Diners swear by the palak chaat (crispy spinach) appetizer, but there are almost no misses on the spicy, flavorful menu. Other must-try dishes: black cod, tandoori salmon and the Tawa Baingan (eggplant with potatoes, above). Home cooks can nab jars of the kitchen's sauces (\$6.50 for 16 oz.) to replicate the experience at home.

OWNER'S FAVE: Ashok Bajaj dines all over town, but when it comes to Indian cuisine, he prefers that of a true expert: his mom. R.K.

→ 1209 Potomac St. NW; 202-333-8448; Georgetowncupcake.com

BEST FARMERS MARKET Eastern Market

After a \$22 million rebuilding project to repair the historic building's 2007 fire damage, Eastern Market returned to its old location in June, and D.C. rejoiced. About 9,000 people visit the market on an average weekend to buy produce, sample spreads and sip coffee.

MEET THE MARKETER: The family of David Fowler — a farmer from Sunny Side Farms in Mechanicsville, Md. — has been selling goods at Eastern Market since it opened in 1873. R.K.

→ 225 7th St. SE; 202-543-7293; Easternmarket.net

BEST FROZEN YOGURT Tangysweet

Whatever you do, don't call it "froyo." "It doesn't deserve a short, goofy name," says Tangysweet owner Aaron Gordon. Tangysweet's Penn Quarter location serves six flavors of a trendy twist on the frozen dessert — it tastes like real yogurt, not ice cream — plus all sorts of toppings, including crumbled cake from sister company Red Velvet Cupcakes.

THE NEXT BIG THING: "I'd like to do a specialty Korean barbecue taco truck," Gordon says. R.K.

→ 2029 P St. NW; 202-822-2066 & 675 E St. NW; 202-347-7893; Tangysweet.com

BEST GOURMET FOOD STORE & BEST HEALTH

FOOD STORE Trader Joe's

The Hawaiian-print motif may drive you up the wall, but you can't deny the value of some of T.J.'s items. In Washington, frozen "Meals in Minutes" and sandwiches are hot sellers, says the D.C. store's general manager, "Captain" Perry Zettersten.

AHOY, CAPTAIN: Zettersten heartily recommends the take-and-cook French onion soup. R.K.

→ Multiple locations, Traderjoes.com

BEST ICE CREAM Cold Stone Creamery

With flavors such as Mud Pie Mojo, Oreo Overload and the Pie Who Loved Me, Cold Stone is not for the Weight Watchers crowd. But for ice

best of 2009

Big Bear Cafe

1700 First St. NW; 202-470-5543;
Bigbearcafe-dc.com

BEST INDIE COFFEE SHOP

Local, sustainable and authentic are three of the guiding principles at Big Bear Cafe. That, and you won't find Splenda anywhere on the premises. "It takes away from the purity and essence of the coffee and espresso," says Jo-Elle Burgard, one of the cafe's managers. The Eckington building dates back to 1895, when it housed a corner store that may have been called the Big Bear Market (the owners don't know for sure). Its current incarnation opened with a simple goal: "To have a community meeting place," Burgard says.

HER FAVES: When she's not sipping Big Bear brews, Burgard likes Peregrine and Chinatown Coffee Company. R.K.



KEVIN DIETSH

the social awareness in D.C."

BRUSH WITH FAME: George Clooney once tried to steal a rock from the wash basin. R.M.

→ 3125 M St. NW; 202-333-6122;
Mienyu.com

BEST SALAD & BEST PLACE TO STICK TO YOUR DIET

Chop't

The staff swears it's the special knife — the crescent-shaped mezzaluna — that makes the salad so tasty, but customers might say it's the thousands of topping options. If you're watching your weight, ask for any of the 39 toppings with fewer than 100 calories.

TOP TOPPING: "We don't know why, but people will add Craisins to any salad. By far, it's the most popular add-in," says Kevin Hood, manager of the Chinatown location. R.K.

→ Multiple locations; Choptsalad.com

BEST SEAFOOD

DC Coast

"DC Coast has been around 12 years, and we really haven't changed our philosophy," says co-owner Gus Dimillo. But when your philosophy is to find the freshest fish on the market and prepare it simply, why change?

JUST ASK: "We don't try to keep anything mysterious. If anybody wants a recipe, we certainly give it out," Dimillo says. R.K.

→ 1401 K St. NW; 202-216-5988;
Dccoast.com

BEST SOURCE OF FREE FOOD

Costco Wholesale

While it's technically not free — a yearlong membership to Costco Wholesale costs \$50 at minimum — you'd be hard-pressed to find somewhere with as many gratis samples. Weekends are best, as bigger crowds mean more snacks.

CLASSIC MEAL: The hot dog and soda combo in the dining area still goes for \$1.50 — the same price it was when the first Costco opened, in 1983. R.G.

→ Multiple locations; Costco.com

BEST STEAKHOUSE

Ray's the Steaks

Since moving up Wilson Boulevard earlier this year, Ray's menu

cream aficionados, the chain's personalized desserts are a frozen fantasy. Arguably the best part of the experience: Employees will burst into song when you tip.

OH, PIONEER: Cold Stone was the first company to sell cake-batter ice cream. c.s.

→ Multiple locations; Coldstonecreamery.com

BEST ITALIAN

Filomena Ristorante Georgetown

A common food complaint in D.C. is "you can't get good Italian." Apparently, those complainers have never been to Filomena Ristorante, where senior pasta makers ("pasta mamas") prepare fresh noodles and gnocchi in the front window.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Diners either love or hate the seasonal decor, including a 15-foot-wide live tree for Christmas, says executive director Dino Jensen. R.K.

→ 1063 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-338-8800; Filomena.com

BEST KABOB

Moby Dick House of Kabob

What more do you need for cheap eats than hunks of lamb, beef, chicken or fish grilled to perfection and served with tasty basmati rice? Moby Dick offers all that and more, with rotating lunch specials, salads and gyros. Adventurous? Try the dough, a traditional yogurt and seltzer drink.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: The chain's named after a kabob restaurant in Tehran, not after the Herman Melville novel. R.K.

→ Multiple locations; Mobysonline.com

BEST PIZZA

2 Amys

A good pizza pie, well, that's amore. "It's all about the love!" says co-founder Amy Morgan. 2 Amys offers the standard tomato-mozzarella combo and creations such as the Etna (with eggplant confit) and the Abruzzese (with tiny meatballs called polpettine).

CARBO LOAD: Customers love the doughnuts, available only on Saturdays and Sundays at lunch. R.M.

→ 3715 Macomb St. NW; 202-885-5700; 2amyspizza.com

BEST PLACE TO GET WORK DONE

Busboys and Poets

At any of the coffeehouse/restaurant/bookstore's three area locations, it isn't shocking to see someone show up at 9 a.m. and not leave until 5 p.m., says Pamela Pinnock, director of marketing and events. "We don't put you out. We don't say to people, 'If you're just going to sit in here and work on your laptop and drink coffee, then you need to get out of there.'"

WHO'S GETTING WORK DONE: D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty recently taped a television interview at Busboys' 14th and V streets location. R.G.

→ Multiple locations; Busboysandpoets.com

BEST PLACE TO GO IF YOU'RE AN INTERN

Pour House

Owner Colin Laverty is well aware of his bar's status as an intern magnet. "It's probably because we're close to Capitol Hill," he modestly surmises. Good deals might have something to do with it, too: \$3 Bud Lights and \$5 appetizers are featured in daily specials from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SPORTS HEAVEN: Pour House was recently renovated, adding more than 15 high-definition flat-screen TVs. R.G.

→ 319 Pennsylvania Ave. SE; 202-546-1001; Pourhouse-dc.com

BEST RESTAURANT BATHROOM

Mie N Yu

This lavish unisex lavatory is outfitted with rock-lined barrel sinks, stalls made of carved dark wood and continuous streams of steaming water. "It promotes social interaction in a different part of the restaurant," says Oren Molovinsky, general manager. "It takes people out of their comfort zone. We want to heighten

best of 2009

has doubled and the prices have dropped. New specialty cuts include a 24-ounce Texas sirloin, a flat-iron steak and a Brazilian steak. And now, after years without, Ray's even takes reservations.

QUALITY CONTROL: All cuts are butchered and hard-carved daily, says owner Michael Landrum. R.G.

→ 2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-841-7297

BEST STREET FOOD

Julia's Empanadas

These small baked-sandwich shops have been a staple of the D.C. street food scene since the first store debuted in Adams Morgan 17 years ago. The family-run operation now has four area outposts. "My wife, Julia, is the chef, and my son is the manager," says owner Bill Hohman, "and we're all strict on quality."

WHAT'S AN EMPANADA? Think of it as a South American calzone with ingredients such as Chilean beef or chorizo inside. R.M.

→ Multiple locations; Juliasempanadas.com

BEST SUSHI

Sushiko

Established in 1976, Sushiko stays on top with a combination of fresh ingredients — it flies fresh fish in from all over the world, says Russell Gravatt, one of the owners — and fresh ideas. You might not expect to find salmon ceviche in a sushi joint, but Gravatt says it's one of his favorites.

DON'T BE ALARMED BY: The strip club next door to the Glover Park location. Gravatt says: "The only thing we share is a Dumpster." F.Z.

→ 2309 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-4187 & 5455 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase; 301-961-1644; Sushiko.com

BEST TEX-MEX

Lauriol Plaza

In business for more than 25 years, Lauriol Plaza is a landmark known for its vast menu and unique boxy-brick architecture. General manager Jose Belloni attributes the restaurant's success to a combination of fresh ingredients, reasonable prices and a cozy atmosphere. And "don't forget the margaritas — they're the best," he adds.

SERVING SUGGESTION: Belloni's favorite dishes include the paella, the fajitas and the "excellent, excellent" enchiladas. R.G.

→ 1835 18th St. NW; 202-387-0035; Lauriolplaza.com

BEST THAI

Tara Thai

Sure, it's a chain — there are seven area locations — but each Tara Thai has its own distinctive look and menu. "I want each one to become a neighborhood restaurant," owner Nick Srisawat says. A native of Thailand, Srisawat visits his homeland once or twice a year. "I taste food there; I bring back recipes," Srisawat says. "I try to make sure my food stays authentic."

SERVING SUGGESTION: Srisawat's favorite dish is the Kapow — meat fried with basil and garlic sauce. R.G.

→ Multiple locations; Tarathaiexpress.com

BEST VEGETARIAN

Sunflower Vegetarian Restaurant

With meat-free cuisine from Taiwan, Japan, China, Thailand and the U.S., it's no wonder veggie lovers flock to Sunflower. But they're also devoted to owner Miranda Cheng. "Our customers always support me because they know I work so hard for them," she says. And she hasn't raised prices in two years.

QUALITY CONTROL: Many of Sunflower's ingredients are shipped directly from Taiwan and Japan.

→ 6304 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church; 703-237-3888 & 2531 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, Va.; 703-319-3888; CrystalSunflower.com

BEST WINGS

Hard Times Cafe

Every Wednesday, Hard Times Cafe's 16 locations host packed houses for the same reason: cheap wings. The most popular flavor, Original Texas, has a sweet Buffalo-style sauce with a peppery kick.

INSIDER TIP: Co-owner Jim Parker recommends ordering your wings grilled and naked, with the sauce on the side. "That way, you can mix sauces," he says. R.G.

→ Multiple locations; Hardtimes.com

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Cork

1720 14th St. NW; 202-265-2675; Corkdc.com

BEST WINE LIST

Husband and wife Khalid Pitts and Diane Gross traded in their lives as politicians to open this Logan Circle spot, where both wine geeks and novices can find libations to satisfy the palate. The Old World-only list features more than 50 wines by the glass and 160 bottles from all over Europe. For some eats to go with that vino, try the trout, the oil-cured tomatoes or the fries.

SERVING SUGGESTION: "I'm a huge sparkling wine fan, so a Stephane Tissot Crémant du Jura. It's the wine we served at our wedding," Gross says. R.K.



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arts & entertainment

BEST COMICS STORE

Big Planet Comics

Folks may initially be drawn to Big Planet Comics — there are four area locations — out of convenience, but they come back for the service. “We always endeavor to learn our customers’ names,” says founder Joel Pollack. There’s even an in-store subscription service, which means the store will hold books for you. Big Planet sells most of its rare comics on eBay, choosing instead to focus on newer titles and small-press releases in the store.

OWNER’S FAVE: Laughing Ogre Comics in Fairfax. R.G.

→ Multiple locations; Bigplanetcomics.com



LAWRENCE LUK

BEST CONCERT SERIES

Millennium Stage

Free. That’s the word the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage has used to win fans across the region. It’s a unique atmosphere, too: “There’s a lot of cross-pollination between audience members who come just because they enjoy performances and audience members who come to see a specific act, more so than in a club or other venue,” says Garth Ross, director of Performing Arts for Everyone.

BRUSH WITH FAME: Millennium Stage had a cameo in the Russell Crowe movie “State of Play.” K.E.

→ 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600; Kennedy-center.org

BEST DANCE CLUB

The Black Cat

Between a packed schedule of concerts and the Red Room bar, the Black Cat attracts a variety of fun-seekers every night of the week. Plus, it holds DJ-driven dance parties so raucous they can’t be ignored — in particular the “Vs.” series (Madonna vs. Prince vs. Michael Jackson,

POSITIVE SPIN: Fatback DJ KC Higgins at the Hirshhorn After Hours.



LAWRENCE LUK

Fatback

Bohemian Caverns, 2001 11th St. NW; 202-299-0800; Fatbackdc.com

BEST DJ NIGHT

“It’s always been about re-creating the house party,” says Philippe Chetrit, one of seven friends who make up the Fatback DJs. “Great music, no dress code, no cover charge — just a chance to do it right.” Their unpretentious vibe at Bohemian Caverns’ Liv club has put D.C. partiers in their dancing shoes since December 2007. What’s their recipe for a fab dance night? “Soul, funk and boogaloo, plus a really dark room, plus costumes, booze and love,” Chetrit says.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: No one in Fatback is a full-time DJ. “Actually, we are marketing representatives for the pork industry,” says Chetrit (actually COO of Affinity Lab, a small-business incubator). “Remember ‘I scream, you scream, we all scream for pork?’ That was us.” R.M.

anyone?). “Our focus is more on live national and local bands, but it’s nice to know that people like our dance nights as well,” says owner Dante Ferrando.

GET YOUR DANCE ON: On Nov. 6, experience the Black Cat’s Sorted, a blend of indie pop, Britpop and soul. K.E.

→ 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-4490; Blackcatdc.com

BEST FILM FESTIVAL

Silverdocs

It turns out this town of perpetual truth-benders likes honesty when it’s on film. Silverdocs’ hit documentaries are sad, funny, transcendent, silly and moving — the only unifying factor is that they’re all true to life.

BRUSH WITH FAME: Of all the events held at the AFI, this may be the most celebrity-studded — past festivals have attracted directors Martin Scorsese and Werner Herzog. F.Z.

→ 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 301-495-6721; Silverdocs.com

BEST GALLERY

Hillyer Art Space

Hillyer is impressive in scope if not real estate — it takes on everything from visual art exhibitions to poetry to hip-hop jam sessions. But the venue’s secret to success, says gallery coordinator Graham Boyle, is looking out for the little guy. “I think it’s because we’re a nonprofit — that allows us to take some risks that commercial galleries won’t.”

YOU SHOULD KNOW: Hillyer has a party featuring an exhibition opening, live music and free food the first Friday of every month. K.E.

→ 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0690; Artsandartists.org/artspace.php

BEST INDIE BOOKSTORE

Kramerbooks & Afterwords

“I love it because it’s small and it has a phenomenal selection,” says clerk Claire Coogan. “There’s everything in here I want to read, which is terrible for my paycheck.” And what’s it like working the overnight shift? “The people who drift in in the evening tend to be unbelievably fascinating.”

WHAT YOU SHOULD BE READING: Coogan recommends “The Elegance of the Hedgehog,” by Frenchwoman

SKY SITNEY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SILVERDOCS



COURTESY SILVERDOCS

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Perhaps the most exciting moment of 2009 was welcoming basketball icon LeBron James, fresh off his spectacular season with the Cavaliers, to our opening night gala screening.

WHEN DO YOU START PLANNING THE 2010 FESTIVAL?

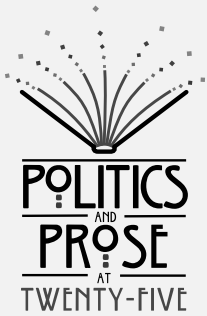
The day after the prior festival ends.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE ABOUT D.C.?

“Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,” of course. F.Z.

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At **Modern Times Coffeehouse** our Open MIC is going strong. Some of the most talented and supportive musicians in the area descend upon the coffeehouse every Friday night. All styles of music are welcome. Sign up starts at 7:30 p.m. and the performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

Starting in December, we will begin hosting a new film screening series, showcasing the work of local filmmakers. The series will offer an opportunity for filmmakers young and old, professional and amateur, to show and share their work in a creative, supportive and engaging environment. Currently accepting submissions for our initial lineup.

For more information on arts and happenings in the coffeehouse check out our blog:

www.moderntimescoffeehouse.blogspot.com

Dinner With the Author

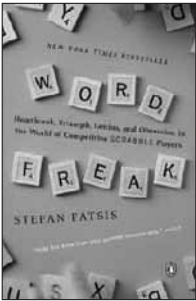
Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 pm

Rick Atkinson

The Long Gray Line

20th Anniversary Edition

The third event in our *Dinner With The Author* series features Rick Atkinson discussing the history of the West Point class that led the American forces in Vietnam. This is an opportunity to share a three course dinner and lively conversation in a relaxed and intimate setting. For more information or to attend, please contact Bonnie Kogod at bkogod@politics-prose.com or 202-363-7738.



On November 14th at 8 p.m. we will host a Scrabble tournament led by Stefan Fatsis, author of **Word Freak**. Come early and enter the drawing for a chance to play Stefan 1-on-1, get a signed book, and learn from DC's resident Scrabble expert. Contact Conor Moran at cmoran@politics-prose.com for more information.

November & December Authors

1	SUNDAY	2	MONDAY	3	TUESDAY	4	WEDNESDAY	5	THURSDAY	6	FRIDAY	7	SATURDAY
1 p.m. <i>Washington Writers' Publishing House Prize Winners</i> Poetry: Jehanne Dubrow From the Fever-World Fiction: William Littlejohn Calvin, A Novel 5 p.m. Elisa New Jacob's Cane	10:30 a.m. Mary Ann Hoberman & Co-Editor Linda Winston The Tree That Time Built 7 p.m. Timothy Egan The Big Burn	10:30 a.m. Mary Amato Take the Mummy and Run 7 p.m. @ Sixth and I Dan Senor Start-Up Nation 7 p.m. Michael Specter Denialism	10:30 a.m. Marge Pellegrino Journey of Dreams 7 p.m. Mary Karr Lit	7 p.m. Toby Lester The Fourth Part Of The World 7 p.m. @ GW Lisner Al Gore Our Choice	7 p.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church Barbara Kingsolver The Lacuna	1 p.m. Linda Gordon Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits 6 p.m. <i>Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize Reading</i> Carrie Jerrell After The Revival							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
1 p.m. Jim Rosapepe & Sheilah Kast Dracula Is Dead 5 p.m. Kati Marton Enemies Of The People	10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. David Carter White Noise 7 p.m. Hendrik Hertzberg ¡Obámanos!	10:30 a.m. Laura Elliott Troubled Peace 7 p.m. Gordon S. Wood Empire Of Liberty	7 p.m. Stephen Cohen Beyond America's Grasp	10:30 a.m. Phyllis Naylor Faith, Hope, and Ivy June 7 p.m. Haynes Johnson Herblock	7 p.m. Mary Gordon Reading Jesus	1 p.m. Jennifer Kaplan Greening Your Small Business 3 p.m. Mark Andersen & Mark Jenkins Dance Of Days 6 p.m. Woody Holton Abigail Adams							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							
5 p.m. Hank Stuever Tinsel	7 p.m. John Cassidy How Markets Fail	10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Shannon Hale Forest Born 7 p.m. James Mcmanus Cowboys Full	10:30 a.m. David Catrow Max Spaniel Dinosaur Hunt 4:00 p.m. America's Test Kitchen More Best Recipes 7 p.m. George Packer Interesting Times	4:00 p.m. Julie Andrews & Emma Walton Hamilton Collection of Poems, Songs and Lullabies 7 p.m. Joan Biskupic American Original	7 p.m. Carmen Reinhart & Kenneth Rogoff This Time Is Different	1 p.m. Thomas Mallon Yours Ever 6 p.m. Robert Poole On Hallowed Ground							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28							
1 p.m. Brad Leithauser The Art Student's War 5 p.m. Patricia Sullivan Lift Every Voice	7 p.m. @ Sixth & I David Plouffe The Audacity To Win	10:30 a.m. Anthony Horowitz Crocodile Tears 7 p.m. James Bradley The Imperial Cruise											
29	30	1	2	3	4	5							
	7 p.m. Denis Lipman A Yank Back To England	7 p.m. Walter Isaacson American Sketches 7 p.m. @ Sixth & I Jonathan Safran Foer Eating Animals	7 p.m. Robert W. Merry A Country Of Vast Designs	7 p.m. @ Sixth & I Greg Mortenson Stones Into Schools	<i>Holiday Member Sale</i>	<i>Holiday Member Sale</i>							
6	7	8	9	For more information about these events, visit our website at www.politics-prose.com/express or call (202) 364-1919 • (800)722-0753 Mention "Express" in an online purchase during November 2009 and get 20% off one book. Some restrictions apply.									
<i>Holiday Member Sale</i>		4:30 p.m. Jane O'Connor A Splendiferous Christmas	10:30 a.m. Tom Paxton Marvelous Toy										

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Muriel Barbery. "It's this charming little French novel about a concierge who's a closet intellectual." F.Z.

→ 1517 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-387-1462; Kramers.com

BEST JAZZ VENUE

Blues Alley

Jazz is not just for the older generation! Operations director Kris Ross recalls a night when the JB Horns, James Brown's former horn section, played for a weekend. "We had just instituted a half-price admission for students, Ross said. "Sunday night was just mostly college kids, and the last song they played was 'Get Up.' The whole place was dancing. We had to pull people off the tables and chairs; it was crazy."

MMMMM: The food is all Creole goodness. F.Z.

→ 1069 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141; Bluesalley.com



LAWRENCE LUK

Cafe Japonese

2032 P St. NW; 202-223-1573;
Cafejapone.com

BEST KARAOKE

This Dupont mainstay boasts a restaurant downstairs and a cozy karaoke bar upstairs, both of which serve sushi and strong cocktails. Owner Kenji Akiho cites his loyalty to Japanese culture as the reason Cafe Japonese has been around for so long — 20 years.

YOU PROBABLY COULD HAVE

GUESSED: Selections from Madonna and Bon Jovi, and Journey's 'Don't Stop Believin'," are belted out most often. K.E.



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best of 2009

BEST LOCAL ARTIST
Wale

Rapper Wale is on the verge of big things — such as his current tour with hip-hop icon Jay-Z — so enjoy his local favorite status while you can. Despite imminent national stardom, his songs express a deep loyalty to home. The hit “Chillin” is rife with D.C. references, including a Ben’s Chili Bowl cameo in the video.

COMING SOON: Look for his album “Attention: Deficit” on Nov. 10. K.E.
→ Walemusic.com

BEST MOVIE THEATER
E Street Cinema

This indie multiplex welcomes both Oscar-nominated films and “stuff that no one else is playing,” says Tom Beddow, first assistant manager. Indie flicks, vegan cookies and tiny bottles of wine? They

have it covered. “We try to foster an atmosphere of sophistication,” Beddow says.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: E Street Cinema’s prior identity was a parking garage. K.E.
→ 55511thSt.NW; 202-452-7672; LandmarkTheatres.com

BEST MUSEUM
National Gallery of Art

The National Gallery stands out with its combination of an astounding art collection and a series of films, lectures, concerts and talks. Deputy director Franklin Kelly says having to pick a favorite painting is “like asking about your favorite child.” But he does single out Jackson Pollock’s “Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)” and Jan van Eyck’s “The Annunciation.”

OUR FAVE: Go into the East Building and look up. You’ll thank us. F.Z.

4thStreet&ConstitutionAvenueNW; 202-737-4215; Nga.gov

BEST OPEN MIC
Iota Club & Cafe

Open mic at Iota is hardly an amateur hour — it’s long been a meet-up event for serious musicians. This Wednesday night affair (8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.) is always hosted by local talent and is currently in the capable hands of the band Brother Shamus. Bassist Rich Delos Reyes describes it as “kind of like a stepping stone to getting yourself onstage on a regular night.”

HISTORY LESSON: The open mic night is 15 years old. K.E.
→ 2832WilsonBlvd.,Arlington; 703-522-8340; Iotaclubandcafe.com

BEST SPOT FOR READINGS
Politics and Prose

P&P’s schedule of readings and

book signings is so filled with famous names that it’s exhausting to even peruse the schedule. Just recently, Mary Karr, Al Gore and Barbara Kingsolver have all dropped in. We’re excited for Julie Andrews, who will be signing her new book on Nov. 19.

YOU SHOULD WORK THERE: The store provides health insurance to all its employees. F.Z.
→ 5015ConnecticutAve.NW; 202-364-1919; Politics-prose.com

BEST THEATER
Kennedy Center

The only problem with the Kennedy Center is deciding whether to attend the free banjo concert or the modernist musical or the long-running “Shear Madness.” The Kennedy Center has both a cat *and* a ghost: Mosby the Cat haunts the Terrace Theater, says

Max Woodward, vice president of theater programming.

NOT TO MISS: Woodward is excited for the trio of Terrence McNally plays coming next spring. F.Z.
→ 2700FSt.NW; 202-467-4600; Kennedy-center.org

BEST VENUE
9:30 Club

We didn’t have to tell the 9:30 Club it was the best. It — and you — already knew. “When artists are young, they aspire to one day play the 9:30 Club,” says rep Audrey Fix Schaefer. “When artists are really big, they like to come back and play the 9:30 Club. It’s just such a legit place.”

DON’T FORGET ABOUT: The eats. They’re cheap, and the menu is vast. “The food is one of the best-kept secrets,” Fix Schaefer says. F.Z.
→ 815VSt.NW; 202-265-0930; 930.com

express

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stores & styles

BEST ACCESSORIES

Nordstrom

Like raiding your best friend's closet in high school, shopping at this classic department store always means uncovering something special for gussying up, whether your style is boardroom-sophisticated or night-out glam. At each of the area's three outposts, a fleet of friendly but not pushy sales clerks help navigate the huge on-trend selection of designer and affordable handbags, jewelry and other wardrobe-updating accents (think sparkly cocktail rings, bold ikat scarves and hip yellow aviator shades).

BEST-SELLERS: Drapery cashmere wraps, stacked bangles, cross-body totes and bags. K.K.

→ Multiple locations; Nordstrom.com

BEST FLORIST

A Little Shop of Flowers

At least partially thanks to its clever name — but more significantly owner Sefika Kurt's 18 years in business — this cheery Adams Morgan shop has cultivated a zealous following, from high-strung brides to doghouse-dwelling husbands. Kurt perfects her arrangements by asking a quick series of detailed questions to determine the recipient's style (elegant or exotic; modern or garden-style). Need a pretty bouquet to give dinner party hosts? Her fail-proof suggestion: orchids, hydrangeas and — for an unexpected accent — sprigs of curly willow. "Nobody would say no to that," she says. (Her creation for Express, below, included exotic blooms such as Bird of Paradise, Oncidium orchids and



Home Rule

1807 14th St. NW; 202-797-5544; Homerule.com

BEST INDIE HOME DECOR STORE

A pioneer of Northwest D.C.'s 14th Street revitalization, this tiny 10-year-old shop stocks a rainbow-hued collection of trendy home goods sure to brighten your kitchen and bathroom, from everyday essentials (silver scrubbies, Le Creuset Dutch ovens) to so-clever-you-need-it-now accessories (Pac-Man pot holders, iceberg- and Titanic-shaped ice cube trays). "We're small, so we're very careful and selective about what we put on the shelf — like people are in a home," says co-owner Greg Link.

BEST-SELLING ITEM: Cute-but-practical Water Smile toothbrush caps, which are just as popular now as they were on opening day. K.K.

kangaroo paw.)

OWNER'S FAVE: Kurt admires the funky floral designs of Urban Petals' Sarah von Pollaro. K.K.

→ 2421 18th St. NW; 202-387-7255; Dcnet.com/littleshop

BEST GIFT SHOP
Pulp DC

A word to the wise: Don't come here looking for an ultra-trad

wedding card drowning in flowery prose. Do, on the other hand, come when shopping for unconventional occasions that could stand to be livened up with a dose of snark. This colorful two-level shop teems with plucky sentiments (irreverent and off-color greeting cards, lunch boxes stamped "Everybody Needs a Sugar Daddy") and goofy gifts (bacon soap, hand-cranked

JENNIFER DONOHUE

OWNER OF TREAT



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SHOPPING NEIGHBORHOOD?

Well, I'm biased: I live in Old Town, which, I think, has developed into a really neat shopping neighborhood in the past couple of years. The 14th and U streets corridor is similar, with independently owned, eclectic shops side by side.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO SHOP IN OLD TOWN?

A lot of people just walk up and down King Street, but so many of the more interesting stores are on the side streets. You'll find a whole wealth of stuff — home goods, fashion, coffee shops.

WHICH STEREOTYPE ABOUT WASHINGTON FASHION DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST OUTDATED?

The boxy, boring, stuffy suit. It's a cliché, but Michelle Obama is such a good example of how you can wear things that are still appropriate but a little more fashion-forward, too.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF FASHION ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR WASHINGTONIANS?

Don't be afraid to take more chances with what you wear, especially with color. You can completely transform an outfit with a chunky necklace or fun pair of shoes. K.K.

roisserie marshmallow roasters). "You hear people laughing all over the store," says general manager Bev Jones.

BEST-SELLING ITEMS: Anything bacon-related sizzles (wallets, mints, bandages and strawberry-flavored gummy bacon). "There's a bacon craze right now, just like the cupcake craze," Jones says. K.K.

→ 1803 14th St. NW; 202-462-1133; Pulpdc.com

BEST INDIE HARDWARE STORE
Strosniders

This trusty trifecta of stores has handily solved the Washington area's hardware emergencies since the Bethesda location opened shop in 1953. While wildly hunting the aisles for just the right clamp to stop the leak that's flooding your pad, you just might rub elbows with local celebs such as NPR's Cokie Roberts, one of many loyal regulars.

ESSENTIAL TOOL: Every handyman and handywoman needs a high-quality pair of channel lock pliers, says store manager Craig Smith. Find yours in aisle 18 at the flagship Bethesda store. K.K.

→ Multiple locations; Strosniders.com

BEST INDIE WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE

Treat

The area's first and only "sample sale boutique," this Old Town shop recently expanded into bigger digs to better house its tidy collection of overstock and end-of-season designer duds (Marc Jacobs, Milly, J Brand), complete with deeply discounted price tags but a decidedly boutique-y vibe. "People love to get a bargain and to be able to say, 'I got this for a steal!'" says owner Jennifer Donohue.

OWNER'S TIP: The unspoken tagline is, "You snooze, you lose." New goods arrive nearly weekly with fast-as-a-flash turnover. K.K.

→ 103 S. Saint Asaph St., Alexandria; 703-535-3294; Shoptreat.com

BEST INDIE SHOE STORE
ShoeFly

Find funky — but city-street-comfy — sole mates at this affordable haven for shoe-lovers, from no-frills distressed leather pumps to



best of 2009

Mint Condition

114 S. Royal St., Alexandria;
703-836-6468;
Shopmintcondition.com

BEST CONSIGNMENT STORE

Opened this past summer in a cheery Old Town rowhouse, this ain't your grandma's fusty consignment store. Shoppers scour well-edited racks of scarcely secondhand J. Crew, Gucci, Marc Jacobs and Jimmy Choo items. "Shopping consignment is a very green way to stay in style and buy new things every season — it's recycling in its best form," says owner Toni Henderson, pictured).

OWNER'S FAVE: Henderson loves the clutch of vintage Chanel bags at Inga's Once Is Not Enough in the Palisades. K.K.



LAWRENCE LUK

red-patent and faux-animal-print Mary Janes, plus men's kicks. "We pride ourselves on not getting tons of any style, so that keeps our inventory moving," says owner Jennifer Marfino. Lines include Naughty Monkey, Seychelles, Tom's, Camper, John Fleuvog and Irregular Choice.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: The dude in the floor-to-ceiling rocker poster in the back of the Arlington and Bethesda shops is actually guitar-shredding staffer Jon Shaffer. K.K.

→ Multiple locations; Shoefly online.com

BEST JEWELER Afram Jewelers

Family-owned since opening in 1971, this cozy jewel box features an in-store jeweler and two family watchmakers. "Pretty much everyone in here is related," says Miriam Afram, co-owner and daughter of original owner A.J. Afram. The shop's bling ranges from estate jewelry to in-house custom designs and trendy Pandora charms to Swiss Tissot watches.

BRUSH WITH FAME: The shop helped design a ring for Sean Penn to wear in "Fair Game," a forthcoming thriller filmed largely in D.C. last spring. K.K.

→ 1436 New York Ave. NW; 202-347-0332; Aframjewelers.com

BEST MEN'S STORE Geoffrey Lewis Ltd.

Since master tailor Angelo Abatzis opened the shop 40 years ago,

this family-run downtown D.C. boutique has nattily suited up lobbyists, government cogs, White House staffers, and celebrities such as Denzel Washington and Placido Domingo. "We're a good fit because D.C. is formal and conservative," says Kosta Abatzis, owner Angelo's son. "For a lobbyist meeting a diplomat, a suit is the only choice."

BEST-SELLING STYLES: Navy blue and charcoal gray pinstripes; two-button jackets; jackets with side vents and a high notch lapel; and pleated and cuffed trousers. K.K.

→ 1433 H St. NW; 202-638-6088; Geoffreylewisltd.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY CRAFTS Eastern Market

Browsing the tented weekend stalls of local artists and crafters, market combers invariably find themselves one tiny step from the recycled-glass bauble, hand-stitched handbag or collaged key-holder of their must-have-now dreams. "Every week you can walk past the same artists and see how their work grows," says market vendor Caitlin Phillips of Rebound Designs (Rebound-designs.com), a line of purses repurposed from hardback book covers. "It's so much more personal and exciting than going to the mall."

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: "People would be surprised just how many artists are able to make a living wage in D.C. because of Eastern Market," Phillips says. K.K.

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→ 225 7th St. SE; 202-543-7293; East
ernmarket.net

BEST VINTAGE STORE Junction

"Retro update" might be an oxymoron — linguistically speaking, at least — but at this U Street basement shop, the phrase is elevated to credo status. With each item hand-plucked by owner Shannan Fales, the shop's racks harbor chic blasts from the past tagged with handwritten notes from Fales advising how to rock the style today. "Just because it's vintage doesn't necessarily mean it's stylish — I try to pick things that can be incorporated into everyday style," she says.

FAVORITE VINTAGE FIND: Diane von Furstenberg's iconic wrap dresses from the 1970s. K.K.

→ 1510 U St. NW; 202-483-0261; Junct
ionwdc.com



MELINA MARAT/TPW

Grooming Lounge

Multiple locations; Groominglounge.com

BEST MAN-FRIENDLY SPA & BEST SHAVE

This D.C. man-spa caters to guys who want to look, well, groomed — without having to inhale rejuvenating essential oils and listen to wind chimes. But the atmosphere's hardly the only draw: As co-founder Mike Gilman puts it, "we focus on the steak as much as the sizzle."

GROOMED GUINEA PIGS: The spa's products are mostly created by Gilman and co-founder Pirooz Sarshar, and new potions in development are tested on willing customers. R.K.



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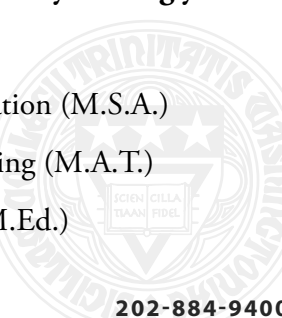
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best of 2009

BEST WEDDING BOUTIQUE
Hitched Salon

Check your bridezilla inclinations — and rigid Emily Post rules — at the door of this tony Georgetown bridal boutique, where gowns start at about \$2,500. "You'll never find someone at Hitched telling you, 'You have to do this' or 'You have to do that' — you don't have to wear a veil or a ball gown," says co-owner Carin Rosenberg Levine. "We are big believers in making your wedding day exactly what you want it to be." In turn, brides become devoted to the point of sometimes inviting the Hitched team to their big day. The one-stop shop also carries invitations, gifts and accessories.

HOT BRIDAL TRENDS: Michelle Obama-inspired one-strap gowns, crinkle chiffon dresses by Amsale. K.K.
→ 1523 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-6162; Hitchedsalon.com

BEST DAY SPA
**Sugar House
Day Spa & Salon**

Mahogany staircases, brass chandeliers and 14 fireplaces in a his-

toric Old Town mansion transport guests to a world of pampering. The 200-year-old former home of a sugar producer now houses three floors of facials, massages, body scrubs and more.

SERVING SUGGESTION: Try the cellulite-fighting Organic Chocolate Therapy (\$125). Co-owner Mary Steidl says it "just melts away your stress." R.K.

→ 111 N. Alfred St., Alexandria; 703-549-9940; Sugarhousedayspa.com

BEST MANI-PEDI
Georgetown Nail Salon

Washingtonians in need of tootsie TLC rave about this walk-in-friendly place, where the decor is utilitarian but clean and a massage is part of the deal. Patrons like the price, too — higher than at an average nail salon but lower than at a fancy spa — and the manicures are rumored to last for weeks.

NAILING IT: A standard mani-pedi will run customers \$55, and a pink-and-white (French style) treatment costs \$72. R.K.

→ 1800 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-2715

BEST MASSAGE
Aveda

Forget about Hellerwork, Shiatsu, Reiki and the like: Do you really need anything more than the basics for pure relaxing bliss? Aveda offers a basic massage (\$75 to \$140, 30 to 90 minutes) and a hot stone version (\$140, 60 minutes), with one variation: You can swap the warm stones for chilled marble.

TAKE A HIKE: Aveda's location — a mile from the nearest Metro station — may be out of the way, but it's entirely worth the trip. R.K.

→ 1325 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-1325; Avedageorgetown.com

BEST MEN'S HAIRCUT
Hair Cuttery

With more than 130 locations in the metro area, and at only \$15 for a cut, the "value" chain's an easy choice, even when there's no recession. "I do think that during these economic times ... people are leaving their high-end salons because they can get basically the same services at a much more affordable price," a rep for the chain says.

NAME-CHECKS: One reader says her

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STYLIST AT
BANG'S METROPOLE
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HOW SHOULD I GET MY HAIR CUT?

The long bob is in — it's a modern, polished, professional look. Long fringe bangs are quite current, too. Long curls are also big right now; I think hair has been so flat and straight for such a long time that more amplified curls are on the rise.

IS WASHINGTON HAIR TOO CONSERVATIVE?

I do think Washington's conservative, but in a modern, sophisticated way. Conservative doesn't necessarily lend itself to boring. I don't do a lot of super-funky avant-garde hair. People need to be able to translate from the Capitol Hill work environment and ... bring it up or tease it out for the weekend when you want to go out.

WHO HAS D.C.'S BEST HAIR?

I have to say, Michelle Obama is kind of a hair leader. She came into the city and single-handedly made it feel like a fashionable place.

WHO NEEDS A NEW 'DO?

Carol Schwartz is somebody that I feel like, year after year, I've always seen her with the same hair, but I'd love to see her update her look. R.K.

husband swears by "Mary at Pike Plaza in Tysons;" Alex Ovechkin reportedly patronizes the Ballston Common location. R.K.

→ Multiple locations; Haircuttery.com

BEST WOMEN'S HAIRCUT & BEST WAX

Bang Salon

You can be in and out on your lunch break for less than the cost of a power lunch — women's cuts are just \$42 and, thanks to the stylists' speed-training, take only 30 minutes. "You could be a really good stylist and not be able to work fast enough to survive here," says Nikki Esoldo, co-owner of the local salon chain. Plus, prospective customers can book their appointments online — another time- and money-saving feature. Waxing is popular here, too (and yes, gentlemen, they do backs and chests); Express readers raved about Michelle at Bang's Verizon location.

OWNER'S FAVE: Esoldo says Urban Style Lab in Dupont also does great work. R.K.

→ Multiple locations; Bangsalon.com

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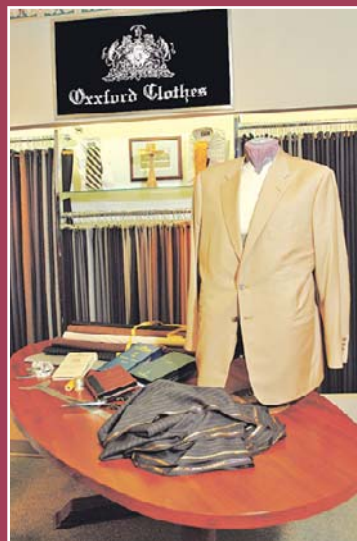
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BEST BIKING TRAIL
C&O Canal Towpath

“It’s the fastest way to get out of D.C. physically and mentally,” says the Washington Area Bicyclist Association’s Ben West about the pebbly path. “Within 10 minutes of riding, you’re out there in the green.” The 184-mile trail begins in Georgetown and parallels the Potomac River until it reaches Cumberland, Md.

BIRDS TO BEWARE: Ride carefully around the geese that block the trail now and again. They’re not so bike-friendly. *K.C.*



BEST GYM
Washington Sports Clubs

Before he had the White House gym at his disposal, Barack Obama used to sweat it out at Washington Sports Clubs. So, it’s no surprise that the chain with 19 area locations would win our readers’ vote of approval. There’s a “Yes, we can” feel, thanks to the fact that a trainer’s always on hand to answer questions and help plan programs. Plus, some clubs offer pools, basketball courts and even a Turkish-style bath.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: WSC’s Glover Park location is the only health club in the city that’s open 24 hours a day. *V.H.*

→ *Multiple locations; Mysportsclubs.com*

BEST HIKING TRAIL
Billy Goat Trail

Location, location, location is what makes this Great Falls favorite stand out. You get to scramble over rocks, check out stellar vistas and spy unique wildlife, all within a couple miles of D.C. But park ranger Ally Batrus reminds prospective hikers to wear proper footgear and plan for three hours to traverse the 2.8 miles — the terrain is tricky enough that, like a goat, you’ll be forced to get on all fours.

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE: Baltrus says

both the Gold Mine Loop and the Ford Mine trails offer similar scenery without the big crowds. *V.H.*

BEST PLACE TO SKI
Wintergreen Resort

Of course, the 26 trails and state-of-the-art snow-making keep the people on the slopes stoked. But this Blue Ridge resort gets bonus points for après ski superiority. When you’re done with downhill, you can relax at the spa, play a round of golf or take advantage of indoor tennis courts. And nothing warms you up quite like a visit to the nearby wineries and breweries.

ZIP TIME: Visitors this winter (the season starts around Dec. 12) can take advantage of the newest attraction: a zip line that’ll reach speeds of 40 mph. *V.H.*

→ *1 State Route 664, Wintergreen, Va.; 434-325-2200; Wintergreenresort.com*

BEST RACE
Race for the Cure

Want a good place to meet ladies? Try the Mall on the morning of the Komen National Race for the Cure. Of the 45,000 participants in the 5K event last June, a whopping 77 percent were women. The participants, including more than 3,600 breast cancer survivors, managed to raise \$4.3 million. And, “having the Capitol and the monuments as a backdrop is amazing,” says project manager Jennifer Segall.

BY THE NUMBERS: More than 2,200 folks opted to Sleep in for the Cure by donating \$35 and not showing up for the race. *V.H.*

→ *Komen.org*

BEST YOGA STUDIO
Willow Street Yoga

One of the most established yoga studios in the region (it turns 15 in January) is also one of the most innovative — classes range from healing back and neck pain to a combo of Hula-hooping and yoga. Willow Street offers about 130 sessions a week, making it the largest Anusara yoga center in the world. Many of the instructors are “home-grown,” says co-director Natalie Miller, which strengthens the sense of community.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN’T KNOW: Every quarter there’s a week of free classes. The next one is Jan. 4-10. *V.H.*



KICK-START: Pitcher Brandon McQueen of the team A Tribe Called Hobo enjoys a recent Sunday game.

Happy Hour Kickball
Happyhourkickball.com

BEST AMATEUR SPORTS LEAGUE

The point of kickball isn’t actually to compete; it’s to drink. That idea is nicely summed up in the name of this Montgomery County league founded in early 2007. “I think that because we’re a bit smaller [than other leagues], we have more of a collegial atmosphere,” says founder Chris Bocquet. In addition to parties after games — which also serve as fundraisers for charity — the 1,200 members of Happy Hour can test their drinking game prowess in the Beer OH Lympics, held every four months.

YEAR-ROUND FUN: In January, the league is introducing indoor dodgeball. That, plus bowling, will keep members entertained during the colder months. *V.H.*

→ *Multiple locations; Willowstreetyoga.com*

BEST COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM
Georgetown Hoyas

Last year, the team suffered its worst season since John Thompson III began coaching, in 2004, but the Hoyas are still the top dogs in Washington. After all, this is a team that made it to the NCAA Final

Four just two years ago. “We’ve got great, great student and fan and alumni support in the area, which makes our games fun to come to,” says Georgetown sports information director Mike Carey.

STRONG SUPPORT: Georgetown was 24th in the nation in college basketball attendance last season. *R.G.*

BEST D.C. TEAM
Washington Capitals

Just five years ago, it would have been nonsensical to call the Caps D.C.’s best team: They finished the 2005-06 season at the bottom of their division. Then Bruce Boudreau took over as coach on Thanksgiving Day 2007, and the Caps quickly became the toast of the town. “It’s been a work in progress between the development of our young guys and the job management has done to supplement

LA Boxing

Multiple locations; Laboxing.com

BEST PLACE TO LEARN TO BEAT SOMEONE UP

Sure, you can take a kickboxing class at any gym, but it's much easier to imagine yourself knocking someone out at an LA Boxing location, surrounded by punching bags, an honest-to-goodness ring and real boxers as instructors. And given the number of styles taught – including Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Muay Thai and mixed martial arts – we pity the fool who challenges a student to a fight.

START PUNCHING: You can sign up for a free class at Laboxing.com. V.H.



GLOVIN' IT: Instructor Ricardo Aguilar spars with daughter Yessica at LA Boxing's Rockville location.

LAWRENCE LUK

that talent," says defenseman Brian Pothier. "It happened quicker than I expected, honestly."

CHAMPIONSHIP-BOUND? The Caps have never won the Stanley Cup, but many experts say this could be the year. R.G.

→ Capitals.nhl.com

BEST LOCAL ATHLETE Alex Ovechkin

"There'd be something wrong with you if you didn't pick him. He's the best in our league," says Washington Capitals captain Chris Clark. With back-to-back MVP and goal-scoring titles, there's no denying the Russian's prowess. He plays with a passion and intensity unrivaled in Washington, and he's one of the most electrifying players ever to lace up skates.

BEST YEARS TO COME? Ovechkin turned 24 in September, and the

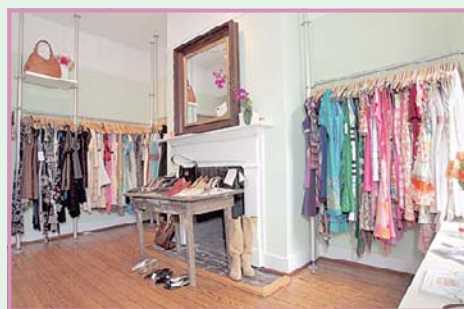
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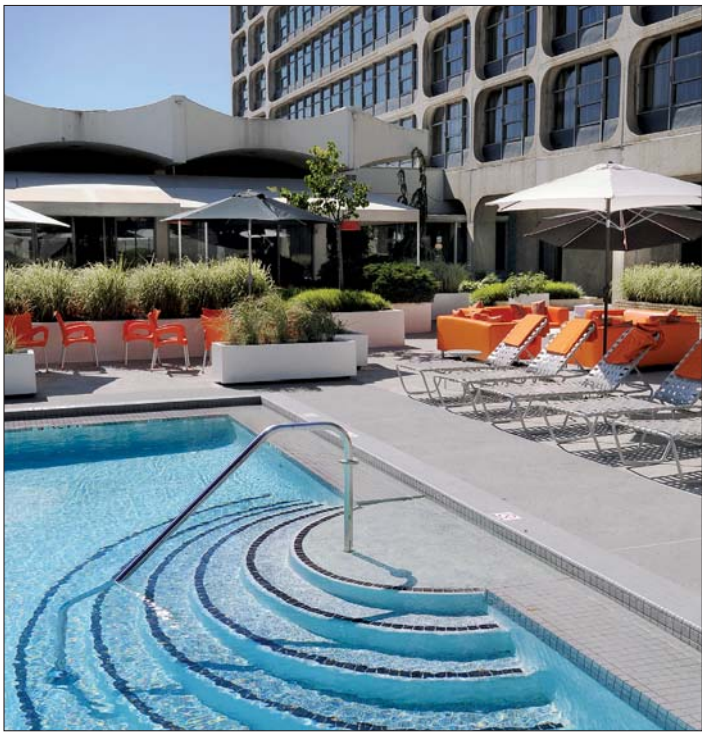
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best of 2009



Capitol Skyline Hotel

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BEST SWIMMING POOL

Pay just a \$10 cover to feel like you're on vacation? Sign us up! The regular bashes hosted by Brightest Young Things and Good Stuff Eatery's Spike Mendelsohn turned this hotel pool by Nationals Park into the hottest spot to cool down this summer, with 700 to 1,000 bathing suit-clad partygoers sunbathing, splashing and sipping every Saturday and Sunday.

FUN FACE-LIFT: Like the hotel, the 40-foot-by-60-foot pool with a 20,000-square-foot deck was born in the 1960s. But no one flocked to the place until a major makeover that included adding cabanas and sofas. "We gave it a Vegas/Miami feel," says manager Jeff Ragonese. *v.h.*

13-year contract he signed in 2008 should keep the superstar in D.C. until 2021. *r.g.*

BEST STADIUM
Verizon Center

When the teams are winning or the show is rocking, Verizon Center has proven itself to be a raucous venue. "It's nice to see when we do have a full house and you have a big hit, and the crowd goes nuts," Washington Capitals captain Chris Clark says.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: Purple was chosen for the Verizon Center's seats to complement all the local teams' colors — "so the seats looked good for every team that plays in the building," says Washington Sports and Entertainment rep Sheila Francis. *r.g.*

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best of 2009



GETTY IMAGES

ALEX OVECHKIN**WASHINGTON CAPITALS
FORWARD**

Last season, after scoring a particularly unbelievable goal against the Montreal Canadiens that saw him stealing the puck at center ice, falling on his back, and somehow poking the puck past the Canadiens' net minder as he fell, Ovechkin looked to the stands and cupped his hand to one ear, as if to say, "I can't hear you," to the capacity crowd. The Verizon Center erupted, giving Ovechkin a hockey equivalent of a curtain call. He smiled, flashing the toothless grin that's become an iconic D.C. image since he joined the team in 2005.

When he's not egging the fans on, Ovechkin's crashing into the boards, grabbing his teammates or dropping his stick as if it's too

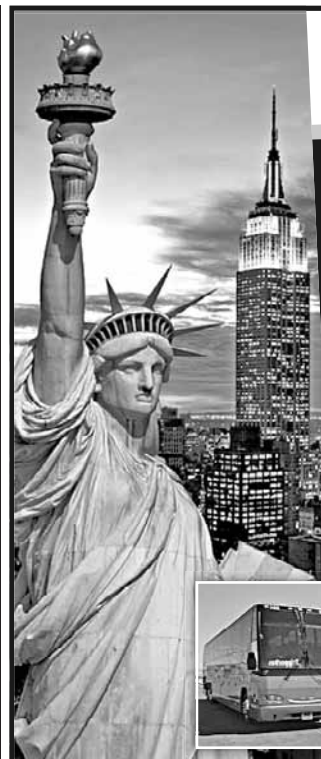
hot to handle. Sure, his antics are a bit ridiculous, but it's why we love him. You voted him Best D.C. Athlete, so we asked the Great 8 for his Best of 2009.

RESTAURANT: Ovechkin couldn't decide, but he says he likes to go to Chopsticks in Georgetown for sushi and Russia House for a little taste of home.

BAR: "My basement," Ovechkin says, where he indulges in beer, wine and vodka.

D.C. ATHLETE: Gilbert Arenas of the Wizards, who also calls Verizon Center home. "I love watching the way he plays," Ovechkin says.

PLACE TO DRIVE: Ovechkin's a big car aficionado — he's boasted about his Mercedes-Benz going 180 miles per hour. "The road is the best spot to drive — just anywhere," he says. R.G.



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best of 2009

home & away

BEST METRO STATION
Gallery Place-Chinatown

It's a sea of red during Capitals games, a sea of blue during Wizards and Hoyas games, and a sea of tourists pretty much all the time. The spot wasn't always such: The 1968 riots left the site barren until Metro, in 1976, spurred revitalization there. "In terms of bringing people and money and culture down to what had been a pretty derelict part of town, that's sort of a city planner's dream," says Zachary M. Schrag, George Mason University history professor and author of "The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro."

METRO GEEK TRIVIA: Gallery Place was missing from the original Metro map. A lawsuit about the station's lack of handicapped access delayed its opening until December 1976, eight months after Metro opened. (It's handicapped-accessible now.) R.G.

BEST MONUMENT
Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is synonymous with civil rights — both because of the president it honors and the historical events it has hosted — but it's also a gorgeous sight and, to our readers, the centerpiece of the National Mall. "The architecture itself is certainly pleasant to the eye, attractive in a calling sort of nature — calling people to it," says Bill Line, a spokesman for the National Park Service.

FREEDOM RINGS: Call 202-747-3420 to hear any of 13 ranger talks about the memorial — including a hilariously jolly, Wilford Brimley-esque reading of the Gettysburg Address. Speed dial! R.G.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD
& BEST PEOPLE-WATCHING
Dupont Circle

At any given moment, Dupont Circle looks like an Elle photo shoot. Stilettoed gals click across the circle tapping on BlackBerrys. Tight-shirt-wearing, toned men strut the sidewalks with their Shih Tzus in tow. Skinny-jeans-adorned waifs in dark-rimmed spectacles drape

ZACHARY M. SCHRAG

FIVE FAVORITE METRO STATIONS



EVAN CANTWELL/GMU

Express asked this Metro expert to pick his five favorite stations.

JUDICIARY SQUARE: "I think it's architecturally the most significant and quite beautiful in that way." He especially likes the National Building Museum exit, "where you get that magnificent vista framed in the escalator."

UNION STATION: Historically notable because it "connects Metro to commuter rail and the inner-city rail."

EAST FALLS CHURCH: "Because that's the one near my house, and it's always nice to have a Metro station near your house."

RONALD REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT: "There's something about getting off a plane when you've been far away, sort of sliding into that Metro space, and suddenly you feel at home."

A FUTURE TYSONS CORNER STATION: Schrag's always thought a Tysons station should have been part of the original system. "It's good that there will be a Tysons station built within my lifetime," he says. R.G.



LAWRENCE LUK

FACES OF DOS: From left, Christen Horn, Bryan Speelman, Emily Yu, Alex Banuls, Caroline Horn, Orlando Lopez.

District of Sound

BEST LOCAL BLOG

Although it's not even a year old, District of Sound (Districtofsound.com) has quickly become a go-to source for navigating D.C.'s multifaceted music scene. (Best part: Readers can sort by genres such as "powerpop" and "shoegaze" to easily find tunes.) Emily Yu, and sisters Christen and Caroline Horn launched the site on Nov. 19, 2008, to fill what they thought was a sad gap in local music coverage. "We thought, 'Why not put together what we love doing, which is going to shows and talking about them, and put them in an outlet like this blog?'" Yu says.

FOUNDER'S FAVE: Caroline Horn loves DCist.com — our second-place winner. R.G.

themselves across the fountain. Even the old men playing chess seem stylish. What's causing this congregation of trendy types? Simply put, it's a happening 'hood — D.C.'s version of SoHo. "Dupont has over 400 shops and restaurants in such a condensed area — it's like four cities in one," says local historian and author Paul Williams.

NAME-CHECK: Dupont Circle's moniker is surprisingly un-hip in origin — it was named in 1882 after Samuel Francis Du Pont, a naval officer who was largely responsible for modernizing the U.S. Navy. C.S./R.M.

BEST ONGOING
POLITICAL ISSUE
Health Care

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., might say that President Obama is lying about health care, but there's no faking our survey respondents' interest in the still-raging health care debate. The national headline-grabber is a key local issue, too: Nearly 10 percent of District residents remain uninsured, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. "Health care isn't just political; it's personal," says a rep from the liberal lobby group

Health Care Reform Now. "If people don't have a personal health care story, they know someone who does."

NON-FUN FACT: The United States spends, on average, \$1.7 trillion annually on health care but ranks only 37th in health care quality, according to the World Health Organization. C.S.

BEST POST-COLLEGE CLASSES
The Graduate School
The Graduate School was created by the United States Department

of Agriculture in 1921 but became independent of the government this year. The school provides top-notch continuing education in a "learning environment that is nonthreatening, in particular for someone who has not have been in a classroom for a while," says Carolyn Nelson, registrar and director of evening programs. "The Graduate School's eclectic mix of offerings, everything from horticulture to Web design, really separates us from other institutions," adds Al Tyree, director of marketing and communications.

SIGN UP NOW: The Graduate School offers a course called "Birds of Prey," in which students study habitat requirements of the birds and their relationships to other species. K.E.

→ 600 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-314-3310; Graduateschool.edu



KRISTOFFER TRIPPLAAR

Shirlington Dog Park

2601 S. Arlington Mill Drive, Arlington

BEST DOG PARK (TIED WITH 17TH & S)

It's a tie! The dog park at 17th and S streets opened only this summer, but its victory is no surprise — the 5,600-square-foot fenced space is D.C.'s first official off-leash dog park. Easy access from I-395 and a long, narrow design make Shirlington Dog Park (pictured) popular, says Suzanne Bolton, co-chair of volunteer organization ArlingtonDogs "I love the cosmopolitan atmosphere, plus we have a lot of rescues, so there's none of the breed snootyism of some parks."

INSIDER'S TIP: Shirlington has a special area for small dogs, Bolton notes. R.G.



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best of 2009

BEST REASON TO GO TO BALTIMORE
Fell's Point

Sometimes grime is good. The gritty atmosphere is something the historical waterfront community prides itself on. "Some of the locals say they like it here because there's sort of a rough edge about it," says Jason Sullivan, executive director of Fell's Point Main Street, an area nonprofit. "This is real Baltimore."

HISTORY LESSON: The Robert Long House (812 S. Ann St.), the oldest standing building in Fell's Point, was built in 1765. R.G.

BEST REASON TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY
Shenandoah National Park

The perfect day trip — 75 miles outside Washington — Shenando-

ah National Park is a place where highly stressed Washingtonians can escape the strains of city life. "You can see some very beautiful foliage — especially this time of the year — but it's beautiful any time of the year," says the National Park Service's Bill Line.

INSIDER TIP: Shenandoah sees its smallest crowds during the winter and has the most visitors during the fall, Line says. R.G.

BEST SENATOR/ REPRESENTATIVE
Eleanor Holmes Norton

One is the loneliest number, but for Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., it might be why you voted her the Best Representative/Senator. She is, after all, Washington's only representation in Congress — even though she can't vote. She's long been one of the most ardent

proponents of D.C. voting rights, and legislation that would grant the District representation is currently on hold in the House of Representatives.

SENSE OF HUMOR: Norton semi-regularly appears on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," maintaining a satiric rivalry with Stephen Colbert's conservative on-air persona. R.G.

BEST VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION
So Others Might Eat

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, So Others Might Eat prides itself on being the only interfaith, community-based organization in Washington offering a holistic approach to caring for the homeless. This means providing not only food but also doctors, job training, rehabilitation and a

place to live. "Just because people are poor, we don't treat them poorly," says Father John Adams, SOME's president. "We offer them a handshake and a smile, and welcome people in a nonjudgmental kind of way."

BY THE NUMBERS: About 20 percent of SOME's more than 270 full- and part-time employees are formerly homeless, Adams says. R.G.

→ 71 O St. NW; 202-797-8806; *Some.org*

BEST UNINTENTIONALLY FUNNY THING ABOUT D.C.
Marion Barry

"The joke is not a Washingtonian joke," says Dana Flor, co-director and co-producer of the HBO documentary "The Nine Lives of Marion Barry." The former mayor and Ward 8 D.C. Council member's various drug arrests, tax problems and this summer's alleged stalking incident

have all been heavily documented, yet he continues to retain public office. "People froth at the mouth when they hear Marion Barry's name in D.C.," Flor adds. It's "from both sides because they love him and they really, really hate him."

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: Barry was an Eagle Scout and nearly earned a doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Tennessee. R.G.

BEST WEDDING VENUE
Dumbarton House

At this historical Federal Period home-cum-museum — with three terraces and a manicured garden — a thick layer of only-in-Georgetown exclusivity hovers over your nuptials (no fancy decorations necessary). A hefty price tag — ranging from \$5,600 to \$7,000 just to rent the grounds — keeps the yearly

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As a senior editor at Roadside America, a travel Web site specializing in bizarre attractions, Ken Smith is a rare authority on strange landmarks. We asked him for his five D.C. favorites. (You can find locations at Roadsideamerica.com.)

OBSCURE MONUMENT TO LOBSTERDOM: This statue of a man kneeling over a lobster was constructed in Maine for the 1939 World's Fair. After the fair, it moved from city to city for decades before it ended up in Washington (on Maine Avenue), donated by the Camp Fire Girls of Cundys Harbor, Maine, in 1981.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL BLOCK: Although there is now a massive memorial to FDR, "he stipulated that when he died all he wanted was this block of granite the size of his desk," says Smith. It still

sits, with his name engraved on it, outside the National Archives.

THE AMERICAN ACROPOLIS: The National Capitol Columns — originally part of the U.S. Capitol — at the National Arboretum are "pretty offbeat," he says.

THE LAST TEMPERANCE FOUNTAIN: "The Temperance Association was building these fountains all over the country to encourage water-drinking, and you've got the last surviving one in Washington," Smith says.

THE SONNY BONO MEMORIAL PARK: It's "one of our favorite places because it's tiny — it's really tiny," Smith says. (It's simply a triangle of land with a little plaque — seen at left — in the ground.) "We like Sonny Bono tributes wherever they are." R.G.

FIVE WEIRDEST WASHINGTON LANDMARKS

wedding count to about 18. "It's like finding a lost time period right in the middle of Georgetown, next to Dupont Circle — a hidden gem behind a big brick wall," says events manager Melissa Groppe.

COCKTAIL PARTY TRIVIA: During the War of 1812, Dolley Madison took refuge here from the British attack, carting with her White House treasures such as a priceless portrait of George Washington. K.K.

→ 2715 Q St. NW; 202-337-0348; Dumbartonhouse.org

BEST WEIRD LANDMARK The Awakening

The Awakening may not be in D.C. anymore — it moved from Hains Point to Maryland's National Harbor in 2008 — but it may have become even weirder since. J. Seward Johnson Jr.'s 100-foot-long giant is now struggling to free him-

self from the sands of a beach. "It's not your typical landmark," says Ken Smith, senior editor at Roadsideamerica.com. "You can crawl on it; you can hide in the mouth. The point of it is that you should be able to interact with it."

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW: Johnson unveiled a second Awakening in Chesterfield, Mo., in October. R.G.

Compiled By:

Kris Coronado, Karmah Elmusa, Rudi Greenberg, Vicky Hallett, Rachel Kaufman, Katie Knorovsky, Robyn Mincher, Holly J. Morris, Cody Snell and Fiona Zublin.

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BARFOOD
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DUPONT CIRCLE FRESHFARM MARKET See Freshfarmmarket.org for directions
OLD TOWN FARMERS MARKET 301 King St., Alexandria; 703-838-4770; Alexandria.gov

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GIFFORD'S Mult. locations; Giffords.com
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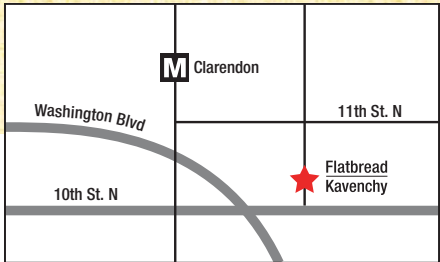
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COURTESY WALKER LAMOND

Walker Lamond

FILMMAKER, AUTHOR, DAPPER DAD

Georgetown resident Walker Lamond wasn't yet a parent when he launched his blog, 1,001 Rules for My Unborn Son (Rulesformyunbornson.tumblr.com) a couple years ago. But his pearls of fatherly advice — "There is never an excuse for stealing someone's cab," "Don't date the bartender" — found an instant following. Now, the father of two has compiled a selection of his charming snippets into a book, "Rules for My Unborn Son" (\$15, St. Martin's Griffin).

The book was born from your blog, but how did the blog start?
The whole thing began as a personal project of sorts, long before I was even online. I was just trying to keep track of all the things my dad had taught me growing up. It was as simple as that. I compiled them on the back of bar napkins and in a notebook, and then one day, decided to put them online. It grew from there.

How did the blog morph into a book?
At some point, I saw that my readership had gone from about 20 to something like 4,000, thanks to the viral nature of the Internet. It was a matter of weeks before I started getting e-mails from publishers and literary agents, and it just took off from there.

Was your father a disciplinarian?
No, my dad was the life of every party, well-dressed, well-mannered and just someone I always looked up to. He wasn't actually a big rules guy, but he thought there were just things a real man would and wouldn't do.

The book itself looks very retro.
From the beginning, there was always a throwback feel to the content of the blog. This isn't advice or a support group — these are rules, in the same way that your grand-

father might've had rules for himself. When it came time to make the book, I really wanted to retain that same vintage-y feel.

"I realized that, more than being rules for my son, they became my rule book for how to be a good man."

The number of rules on the blog are now in the 400s. What will you do when you hit 1,001?

We write one for my daughter! Or, unfortunately for my son, I think we just keep going. Every day, I think of another thing that bugs me or that I want my son to do.

Do you have a favorite rule?

One thing my father taught me that was particularly pertinent to this project was, "Don't boast about projects in progress. Celebrate their completion." It was always tempting to want to talk about the book deal, but I made sure to keep everything under wraps until it was all signed, sealed and delivered.

You're also known around D.C. for being a fashionable guy.

When I started writing the rules, I realized I should start obeying them myself. I started adding more suits to my rotation, shaving more often. But also, when I saw that I was going to have a son, I wanted to make sure I looked like a father. I didn't want to be dressing the same as my kid.

So, these rules aren't just for kids.

When I started writing these things down, I realized that, more than even being rules for my unborn son, they became my own rule book for how to be a good man and a good father. They work for grown-ups just as well. **BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)**



EVENT HORIZON Famous foodies — and the aspiring chefs who love them — take over the Washington Convention Center (801 Mt. Vernon Place NW) this weekend for the Metropolitan Cooking & Entertaining Show (Metrocooking.com). Attend presentations by Food Network stars such as Paula Deen, Tyler Florence and Giada De Laurentiis, along with cooking demonstrations and wine tasting seminars. Tickets start at \$20.

Dress the Art

NEARLY 200 pot-throwers, table-carvers and skateboard-makers show and are selling their stuff Nov. 6-8 during the Washington Craft Show at the Washington Convention Center (801 Mt. Vernon Place NW; Craftsamericashows.com). But it's the wearable art — such as Danielle Gori-Montarelli's felt "licorice" necklace (\$575) and Shu Juan Lu's Yohji Yamamoto-esque dresses — that inspires our lust.



Grab Bag

On Boards

ANYONE WHO'S tried to prep both raw meats and veggies without contaminating their dinner guests can tell you that one cutting board doth not a kitchen make. Joseph Joseph's index system (\$70, Tabletop, I608 20th St. NW; 202-387-7117) holds four dishwasher-safe chopping slabs designated for fish, meat, cooked food or produce, and a slick holder makes it suitable for cramped counter tops. Now, your dinner party worries can be focused on serving soufflé, not salmonella.



Scrub-a-Dub-Dub

WE'VE BEEN TRICKED — by the fresh-faced visages of Hayden, Mandy et al — into buying battery-powered face buffs that feel more like sandpaper than a spa. But we put our cynicism on hold for Clarisonic's new mini Mia (\$149, Sephora.com), the gentle yet deep-cleansing facial scrubber from the team behind the Sonicare toothbrush. One minute-long session with the ticklish tool and we're believers: Our gunky nose pores all but disappeared after a single scrub.



The Knit List

THE MITTENS GRAN CREATED for you as a kid might still possess retro cool if they fit on your huge paws. But local design line De*Nada vaults hand-knit accessories into a more glam, worldly place than, say, Cabin John Middle School circa 1979. Creator Virginia Blanca Arrisueno hawks her cowls (shown, \$58), gloves (shown, \$26) and braided "necklaces" at a pop-up shop at Redeem (1734 14th St. NW; 202-332-7447) Saturday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. during the punky store's three-year anniversary bash.

A Colorful Cast



THE MID-CENTURY mod squad loves to dangle George Nelson's bubble lamps over their Formica tables and low-slung, Don Draper-slept-here sofas. Always sold in minimalist, ladies' glove white, the pendants (created in 1947) now come in era-apropos mist (right, \$435) and ivory (left, \$359) at Room & Board (Roomandboard.com). And for nesters who don't spend every weekend scanning Craigslist for Eames rockers, the lights contrast nicely with more trad pieces, such as dark wood buffets.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

I have a lovely, warm cruise on my schedule this winter. I'd like to find an unusual pair of sandals to take, but I want them to be U.S.-made. Any ideas? — BRENDA

■ Manolo says, happily, there are many American companies that continue to produce first-rate footwear in American factories from American materials.

Sadly, at least for the person who is looking for the stylish sandals to wear on the cruise, most of these high-quality American footwear companies specialize in boots, and not just the cowboy boots either.

The best and most rugged work boots in the world are produced in America by such companies as Frye,



Wolverine, Whites Boots and West Coast Shoes, the nearly century-old family firm in Oregon, which uses American leather to custom-make the world's best pole climber, forest ranger and motorcycle cop boots; in other words, serious shoes for serious occupations.

There is, however, one American company that produces exactly the sort of fun-in-the-sun sandal the Manolo's friend desires: Island Slipper, the Hawaiian company that has been making casually fantastic thong sandals in the island state for more than 60 years.

The Manolo's favorite is the sweet DT Leilani thong (\$59, Islandslipper.com), available in three different colors.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

leg vroom

In olden days (or, at least, for the past few seasons) a glimpse of stocking was looked on as something far from shocking. Snoozy black tights ruled both runways and workdays. But this fall, designers encrusted hosiery with sequins and beads, and rolled out lace and fishnet styles that'd make a can-can girl weak in the knees. "Clothes this season don't have much trendiness," says designer Cynthia Rowley, who trotted out metal-studded and lace-trimmed pairs. "Embellished tights can be the thing that's spontaneous about your outfit." The ideal mate for such ornamental legwear: fall's sky-high statement heels and punky booties. Just be prepared for all eyes to be on your chic calves. "And I worry a little bit that the studded pairs might set off the metal detector at the airport," Rowley laughs. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



1 MENSWEAR HOSE

Dandify a sheath with Wolford's spat-like tights (\$58, Wolford, Tysons Galleria; 703-448-5586) and Sergio Rossi booties (Hu's Shoes, 3005 M St. NW; 202-342-0202).

2 SUN, MEET SHADE

Natty herringbone stockings (\$12.50, Thegap.com) play off the updated Victorian vibe of Tibi's suede pumps (\$352, Sassanova, 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-471-4400).

3 WORLD-WISE WEB

Pair Calvin Klein's spidery gray fishnets with YSL's pencil-heeled crocodile stilettos (\$18 and \$875, Nordstrom, Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, Arlington; 703-415-1121).

4 MESH FIELDS

Wolford's fine-weave maroon fishnets (\$40, Wolford) bring a sultry-librarian feel to Loeffler Randall's cobra-print platform heels (\$475, Sassanova).



5

PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT

Party like it's 1989 in Wolford's silver-dotted tights (\$135, Wolford) and Steve Madden's "Like a Virgin"-cool ankle-wrap suede pumps (\$72, Steve Madden.com).

6

THE AMAZING LACE

Wolford's vintage-y lace tights (\$55, Wolford) get party-ready with Kate Spade's satin sling-backs (\$295, Shoe Hive, 115 S. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-7105).

7

ALPHABET COUP

Turn gams into a word scramble with House of Holland tights (\$15, Mytights.com) and Poetic License booties (\$99, ShoeFly, 2727 N. Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-243-6490).

8

SEQUINS OF EVENTS

Cynthia Rowley's beaded, lacy tights (\$250, CynthiaRowley.com) glitz up Lanvin's sling-backs (\$900, Saks Fifth Avenue, 5555 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase; 301-657-9343).

Bread With a Real Buzz

Baked goods get a rise — and lots of flavor — from beer

Beer-swilling frat boys have long been masters at drinking their dinner. But, sorry, worried moms — they might be on to something. Monks called beer “liquid bread,” due to its yeasty barley base. So, it’s only natural that bakers have been spiking batter since ancient Babylon.

“Beer and bread are two sides of the coin,” says Greg Engert, beer director at Birch and Barley (1337 14th St. NW; 202-567-2576), the new beer-centric Logan Circle restaurant where the bread basket includes a soft beer pretzel by pastry chef Tiffany MacIsaac. In long-ago Germany, bakers borrowed spent yeast from breweries to seed bread dough. Today, pro bakers sometimes infuse dough with barley malt extracts or malt powder to boost bread flavor, texture and shelf life.

At its humblest, beer bread amounts to a sudsy quick bread, a mix of self-rising flour, sugar and a bottle of brewski. The combo of beer and a rising agent (self-rising flour or flour plus baking powder) stands in for yeast, nulling the need to wait until your yeast starter bubbles. The basic formula is so simple, rookie bakers can customize recipes with a mixed bag of beers (Bud Light, microbrews) and add-ins (basil, cheddar).

Just beware of using extra-dark beers with a bitter bite, an overpowering taste that becomes more pronounced in the oven. Engert says sweet undertones work better. “All the flavors you associate with delicious desserts — chocolate, coffee, toffee — are found in beer,” he says. Try milk stouts, brewed with lactose sugar, which can lend latte-like tastes to bread batter.

Seasoned bread bakers — hearth heroes who don’t fear words such



BAKE AND ALE: At Logan Circle’s Birch and Barley, pastry chef Tiffany MacIsaac’s pretzels get oomph from stouts or porters.

as “yeast” and “knead” — might try riffing on more complex yeast-based bread recipes with ales and lagers. “The beer is equal to the hydration or water in recipes,” says Patrick Deiss, who just launched artisan baking company Wicked

“All the flavors you associate with desserts — chocolate, coffee, toffee — are found in beer.”

Bread, sold at 2941 (2941 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church; 703-270-1500). “By adding beer, you get a quicker result and more flavor.”

Plus, beer suds inject a bit of get-up-and-go that yields a light

and airy loaf. “Beer has a naturally yeasty flavor,” Birch and Barley’s MacIsaac explains. “I like when you can taste the yeast in bread, but there’s only so much you can add before it turns into a monster. Beers that have a little more effervescence help with the rising.”

Lucy Saunders, editor of Beer-cook.com, says the bubblier the better when adding beer to breakfast treats such as pancakes and waffles. “A carbonated beer gives oomph,” she says. To add a twist to Grandma’s tried-and-true blueberry muffin recipe, Saunders suggests subbing in beer for half the liquid called for.

But it’s the rich flavors of fall that practically beg for brews, from crisp Oktoberfest varieties to rich pumpkin-spiced ales. You could

even use apples in a quick bread spiked with Woodchuck cider.

Just don’t expect to sink your teeth into the grainy equivalent of a frothy beer stein, says Andrew Whitley, British bread evangelist and author of “Bread Matters” (\$26, Andrews McMeel). “Go for the hoppiest ale possible for a good flavor,” he says. Even if all the liquid in your dough is beer, the flavor won’t hit you in the face — or knock you off your feet, since the alcohol burns off in baking.

“Beer is a great secret ingredient,” MacIsaac says. “It’s not a dominating flavor, so people would never guess.” Even so, beer heads would be wise to heed Deiss’s tip: “If it’s not good enough to drink, don’t cook with it.”

KATIE KNOROVSKY

RECIPEFILE



PUMPKIN ALE BEER BREAD

MAKES TWO LOAVES

INGREDIENTS: 4 cups whole-wheat flour (King Arthur is easily found); 2 cups AP flour (King Arthur); 2 tbsp sugar; ½ tsp pumpkin pie spice; 2 tsp salt; 1 ¼ tsp instant dry yeast; 24 oz. pumpkin ale beer; 4 oz. water

PRE-HEAT OVEN TO 400 degrees. Put a pizza stone and a pan with water at bottom of oven to create steam an hour before baking. Mix beer, water and flour in mixer on low for two minutes until incorporated; cover with towel and allow to rest for 15 minutes. Add remaining ingredients; mix on low for three minutes; switch to medium, mix for 2½ minutes. Remove dough to oiled bowl; cover for 1-1 ½ hours in warm place. Fold the dough once 45 minutes through the process.

Remove dough to floured work surface; divide into two parts. Roll into rounds and leave covered on board to rest for 20 minutes. Flatten balls into disks; fold in half two times and repeat folding other ends in like an envelope and shape into rectangle, roll into logs. Place logs in oiled loaf pans; cover for one hour or until doubled in size.

Score bread across the top three to five times using a sharp knife. Mist loaves with water; place in oven on stone and bake for 35 minutes; open oven slightly and allow to dry bread for five minutes more. Remove from oven; insert a toothpick in middle to test doneness. Remove loaf pans to sheet pan; allow to sit in pans for 10 minutes; remove from pans and place on rack; cool for 45 minutes.

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A War Effort Falls Short

'The Men Who Stare at Goats' is an easy satire that just never really goes anywhere

FILM | You'd have to be out of your mind to object to watching George Clooney — in full Clark Gable mode, no less — for an hour and a half.

But he's part of the problem with "The Men Who Stare at Goats," a wartime satire that glides along with an easy, slightly gonzo grin on its face but never quite goes anywhere.

Clooney is admittedly appealing but oddly miscast as Lyn Cassady, a former soldier who was recruited to a top-secret psy-ops outfit trying to harness supernatural powers.

Ewan McGregor plays a journalist who embeds with Cassady, a psychic master now working as a private contractor, on an Iraq war mission. As the two make their

Also out this week:

"A WOMAN IN BERLIN"

is a portrait of a highly charged chapter in Germany's history, writes the Post's Ann Hornaday.

washingtonpost.com/gog



way on an increasingly digressive journey, "The Men Who Stare at Goats" becomes an amusing but finally trivial picaresque, part Hunter S. Thompson, part Stanley Kubrick, with none of their ferocious genius.

Which isn't to say that "The Men Who Stare at Goats" is a bust. Directed by Grant Heslov (who wrote Clooney's "Good Night, and Good Luck"), the movie unfolds with an easygoing, ambling genial-

ity and features a very funny and improbably touching performance by Jeff Bridges as Lyn's New Age mentor (picture the Dude in fatigues).

But maybe because real-life Americans and Iraqis are still in harm's way over there, the film's arch tone doesn't quite play. "The Men Who Stare at Goats" is an enjoyable bagatelle, but somehow you want it to be more.

ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)



Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) and Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor) on their strange, amusing and somewhat digressive journey through Iraq.

'THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS'

DIRECTOR: Grant Heslov

STARS: George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges

IN A NUTSHELL: Bob Wilton (McGregor) is desperate for a story when he comes across Lyn Cassady (Clooney), who claims to be a former secret U.S. military psychic soldier. Wilton then embeds with Cassady, who is trying to harness supernatural powers.

FOR FANS OF: "Leatherheads," "MASH," "Wag the Dog," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

nightlife agenda



JIM THOMPSON

Le Loup ends its very lengthy tour at the Black Cat this Saturday night.

FRIDAY

When our current crop of hopefuls was still in elementary school, Asheru and Sub-Z were bringing D.C. hip-hop to those who didn't know it existed. After dropping solid releases in the '90s indie hip-hop canon, Asheru took his lyrical skills to the classroom; he used hip-hop in the curriculum by day while still spitting darts at night. Meanwhile, Sub-Z toured internationally with Opus Akoben and Steve Coleman. The two take it back to classic U Street hip-hop days tonight at **BLOOMBARS**.

SATURDAY

Saturday marks the end of a very long haul for Le Loup. The local group ends a national tour behind its invigorating sophomore album, "Family," with a homecoming show at the **BLACK CAT**. Le Loup has zigged and zagged its way across the country, so there's little doubt it'll be happy to get back on home soil and see friends and, er, family at the Cat.

SUNDAY

On Sunday night at **H STREET COUNTRY CLUB**, 10 percent of all food and drink sales, and \$4 for every round of golf played between 5 and 8 p.m. will be donated to Operation Smile, a charity that offers free surgery for children around the world with cleft palates and other facial deformities.

CASTING The Killers John C. Reilly and Mary-Louise Parker are in negotiations to join the cast of "Red," Summit's adaptation of the DC Comics miniseries. It's the tale of a former black-ops agent (Bruce Willis), now in retirement, who has to contend with younger assassins. Reilly would play a retired CIA agent who is paranoid that everyone is out to kill him. Parker would play the romantic interest, a federal pension worker who becomes embroiled in Willis' character's struggle to stay alive. (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)



Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/gog

Lots of Spirit, No Heart

'A Christmas Carol,' starring Jim Carrey, loses its soul to a special effects frenzy

FILM | "Disney's A Christmas Carol" is a tall glass of Dickens with a "Beetlejuice" chaser.

The umpteenth iteration of the holiday classic — about the miserly, miserable Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve redemption at the hands of a trio of ghosts — gets a manic makeover under the direction of Robert Zemeckis, who applies the same motion-capture animation he used to mixed effect in "The Polar Express" to create a fable that is by turns antic, scary, sweet and, in the end, slightly soulless.

In other words, it's a heart-warmer that doesn't have much

of a heart itself. Mostly that's the fault of the animation, which renders everything and everyone in lavish (if somewhat cartoonish) detail, yet misses that ineffable quality that makes a cartoon character human.

This, despite the Herculean efforts of the voice cast, which includes Jim Carrey as Scrooge and the ghosts that visit him, and Gary Oldman as Scrooge's dead partner Jacob Marley, Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit and Cratchit's son Tiny Tim. That the film takes advantage of the latest 3-D technology isn't entirely a bad thing either. The supernatural tale lends itself nicely to the eye-popping special effects.

The film is at its best when Scrooge, guided by a jolly, red-bearded Ghost of Christmas Present, makes the floor of Scrooge's



Jim Carrey stars as Ebenezer Scrooge, right, and plays seven other characters.

house disappear. The two of them then fly hither and yon, peering down into the impoverished dining room of the Cratchit family, for instance. And you WILL get verklempt when Tim raises his cup to say "God bless us, every

It's the fault of the animation, which misses that ineffable quality that makes a cartoon character human.

one." Not so great is the sequence with the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. Decked out like the Grim Reaper, he'll terrify most small kids. Parents should think twice about whether to take the very youngest to this version of "A Christmas Carol," which is by far and away the creepiest we've ever seen. MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Encounter of the Prosaic Kind

While trying to feel realistic, a thriller forgets to be thrilling

FILM | The flat-lining, alien-abduction thriller "The Fourth Kind" offers a close encounter that buries an interesting idea under a barrage of gimmicky, carnival-like hokum.

"The Fourth Kind" opens with Milla Jovovich appearing on-screen, introducing herself as an "actress," the first of many dubious claims the film makes. Jovovich tells us that she'll be playing Dr. Abigail Emily Tyler and that all the trauma we're about to see — including some footage that is, we're advised, "extremely disturbing" — can be supported by documented records and interviews. And, indeed, we're immediately whisked to a conversation with the



Milla Jovovich is Dr. Tyler, a psychologist whose work is clearly stressing her out.

"real" Dr. Abigail Tyler, a saucer-eyed zombie woman haunted by those extremely disturbing events occurring nine years ago. Tyler and her husband, both

psychologists, are investigating some strange coincidences happening in Nome, Alaska. Patients report waking up at 3 a.m., feeling apprehensive and seeing snowy

owls with really big eyes. Curious about the owls, Tyler puts her patients under hypnosis, where she discovers that the nocturnal birds aren't the only things coming out at night. We also see the "real" Dr. Tyler, talking to "Fourth Kind" writer-director Olatunde Osunsanmi on a set at Southern California's Chapman University, recalling how her psychological study gradually unraveled when she got a little too close to The Truth. That truth, as any "X-File" knows, is out there, but in "The Fourth Kind," it's loopy in a way that's completely unintended. Osunsanmi, whose only other movie is the awful exploitation flick "The Cavern," invests so much time and energy trying to convince the audience of the events' veracity that he forgets to create even a rudimentary sense of tension. GLENN WHIPP (AP)



The band will be on NBC on Dec. 31.

A Green New Year's Eve

APPEARANCE | Green Day already has New Year's Eve plans: It'll be ringing in 2010 with Carson Daly. The punk-rock trio are slated to perform during "NBC's New Year's Eve With Carson Daly." The show is to air live from Times Square. Daly says he's "beyond excited" to have the Grammy winners as his guests. Green Day's latest CD, "21st Century Breakdown," has sold more than 800,000 copies. (AP)

Now Playing

AMELIA (PG, 111 minutes) As the film opens, with Amelia Earhart (Hilary Swank) about to set off on what was to be her last global adventure, who can't see how it's all going to end? Not that there isn't loads of inherent drama in this life story. The proto-feminist flier had to overcome enormous sexism just to be taken seriously in the cockpit. Would that the film had taken as many risks as Earhart. (M0)

AN EDUCATION (PG-13, 100 minutes) Sixteen-year-old Jenny (Carey Mulligan) lives in London with her anxious, ambitious parents, who are channeling all their postwar striving into aspirations for their bright, pretty daughter. Jenny is headed to Oxford and, presumably, better things when she crosses paths with David (Peter Sarsgaard), a handsome older man who takes her under his wing and shows her the finer things in life: art, music, good food and the silky, slippery slope of seduction. Screenwriter Nick Hornby and director Lone Scherfig have adapted Lynn Barber's memoir to near-perfection, capturing British life in 1961 as an era between the '50s and the Youth Revolution. And Jenny — innocent yet knowing, virginal yet carnal, not a girl and not yet a woman — embodies just that potent, liminal state. (AH)

ANTICHRIST (Unrated, 104 minutes) A horror film tricked out in the trappings of psycho-sexual dynamics and exegetical musings, this latest provocation from Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier is torture porn for art-house fans. Von Trier has made a specialty of female martyrdom and putting his actresses through hell. Here, Charlotte Gainsbourg plays an unnamed woman grieving the loss of her young son. When she and her therapist husband (Willem Dafoe) repair to their cabin in the woods, they plunge into a battle between irrational, "female" nature and logical, "male" reason, a fight that culminates in the film's shocking final moments featuring graphic scenes of sexual mutilation and torture. The film finally embodies the contradiction of von Trier: He's a gifted, even visionary, artist mired in his own pulp pretentiousness. (AH)

ASTRO BOY (PG, 95 minutes) Is this film a glimpse of the future? Or a relic of the bygone past? On the one hand, it's inspired

by the beloved 1960s television cartoon of the same name, created by Japanese manga/anime icon Osamu Tezuka. On the other hand, its hero is a pre-adolescent android in an Epcot Center-like world called Metro City that floats above an ecologically devastated Earth. The humans who live there are attended by a corps of menial slave-bots that look like they were designed by Sears. Astro, the movie's mechanical-



FALLEN KING: "This Is It" captures the Michael Jackson tour that would have been.

boy hero (Freddie Highmore), is different. "I've got machine guns!" he announces, upon discovering one of his many high-tech accessories. "In my butt!" In short, despite a sweetly ecological message, it can get loud and moderately violent. (M0)

CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY (R, 127 minutes) In one of his best movies, Michael Moore aims to tap into public anger about

Continued on page 34

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NowPlaying

Continued from page 33

last year's economic meltdown and subsequent government bailout, and wake people up to the historic and deeply political roots of the problem. Moore sets out to define and deconstruct just how America arrived at the brink of financial disaster, which he places firmly at the door of Ronald Reagan and the free-market fundamentalists who advised him. Reagan and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan had two goals, Moore says: to increase short-term profits for Wall Street through deregulation

and to break the country's unions. (AH) **CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT** (PG-13, 109 minutes) They're everywhere — vampires. And you, like the rest of the consumer lambs, are drawn to it all and might be again drawn to this movie that pulls two teenage boys deep into a world of vampires, killer spiders, bearded ladies and weird little guys in dark shawls. (DT) **CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS** (PG, 81 minutes) It's true that any film that crams so many jokes into its brief running time risks making audiences feel as overstuffed as if they'd just eaten a school-size pancake. That's why it's a lucky thing that so many of the

jokes are great! Writer-directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller populate the island of Swallow Falls with wacky characters and let them loose in inventive ways. Take would-be scientist Flint Lockwood (voice of Bill Hader), who wears the indestructible spray-on shoes that made him a laughingstock as a child, and police chief Earl Deveraux (Mr. T), whose love for his son is matched only by his love for short shorts. Salvation for the residents of depressed Swallow Falls, stuck eating sardines every day, Flint's latest invention makes it rain cheeseburgers. And bacon. And ice cream. But when Flint's device goes haywire and Swallow Falls is menaced by a perfect storm of enormous food, it's up to the



David (Peter Sarsgaard), left, woos Jenny (Carey Mulligan) in "An Education."



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colorful characters to save the day. (DK) **THE DAMNED UNITED** (R, 97 minutes) Think of the fiercest coach rivalries in sports. Now imagine one of them quitting his team and his most hated rival taking command. That's what happened in 1974, when soccer manager Brian Clough assumed control of Leeds United, England's top club, from bitter rival Don Revie. But as the tart, tender film retells it, Clough's story is more than a movie for soccer fans. It's about how our hatred can consume us so deeply that we lose sight of everything. (DT)

GOOD HAIR (PG-13, 95 minutes) "Daddy, how come I don't have good hair?" It might be the most loaded and universal question within the black community. And it's the question — asked by his then-5-year-old daughter — that propels comedian Chris Rock throughout a hilariously funny documentary. Rock did not have an answer for his daughter, so he embarked on a madcap tour through beauty and barber shops, the Bronner Bros. Hair Show and finally India, where the most coveted source material

for hair extensions is grown. Along the way, he interviews celebrities in search of that perennially vexing question: What is it about black people's hair that freaks out white people so much? The film is such a rollicking, thoroughly entertaining ride that it's easy to take for granted just how easy Rock makes it look. (AH)

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (R, 151 minutes) Quentin Tarantino manages to simultaneously surprise and revert to form in this film. The surprise lies in his choice of period and subject matter. Set in France during World War II, the film tells the fictionalized story of a special squad of American Jews whose mission to kill and capture German soldiers was uniquely practical and symbolic. But from the admittedly breathtaking opening sequence, the film isn't about history or war, or people and their problems, or anything of substance or meaning. It's a movie about other movies. Brad Pitt stars as Lt. Aldo Raine, who early in the movie is shown assembling a group of Jewish soldiers whose mission is to do "one thing and one thing only: to kill

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entertainment **lookout**

Nazis." Pitt's character ends his speech by announcing that he's part Apache and as such will insist that each of his men — the titular IBs — owes him "one hunnert Nattzie scalps." Because it's Tarantino, viewers can rest assured that we'll see those scalps being taken. If only the Allies had Tarantino on their side, he could have made Hitler's head explode. As it happens, they must instead settle on having their

actions and exploits extruded through his own bizarre sense of cruelty, spectacle and talky, postmodern irony. (AH) **THE INVENTION OF LYING** (PG-13, 100 minutes) In this subversively amusing religious satire, Ricky Gervais plays Mark Bellison, who lives in a town where no one has ever lied. But when Gervais discovers the ability to make things up, the town comes alive. If we're

witnessing a struggle, it's between Gervais' own competing angels. (AH) **NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU** (R, 110 minutes) New York is the sort of city where a man can approach a woman during a cigarette break outside a restaurant and in three minutes flat have her deep in granular sex talk. Thus, a writer, played by Ethan Hawke, approaches an attractive woman in this compendi-

um of short films, woven into a light but enjoyable soufflé of erotic vignettes. The New York installment of Emmanuel Benbihi's "Cities of Love" series attracted a starry cast of actors and an intriguing cross section of edgier directors. (PK) **PARANORMAL ACTIVITY** (R, 99 minutes) This genuinely chilling, low-budget indie — shot back in 2006 by first-time filmmaker Oren Peli — tells the story of a

demonic force plaguing a young woman and, by extension, her boyfriend within the claustrophobic walls of their sparsely furnished San Diego home. "You can't run from this," a psychic helpfully tells Katie (Katie Featherston). Micah (Micah Sloat) responds by setting up a video camera to document exactly what happens each night when they tuck into their

Continued on page 36

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Continued from page 35

comfy, king-sized bed. At first, little registers. And then, things start to get really freaky. JEN CHANEY

SAW VI (R, 90 minutes) "You have seen the errors in your policy," Jigsaw (Tobin

Bell) hisses in the latest "Saw" movie. And, kids, he's hissing a pun at Big Insurance when he does, the profiteers who determine "who lives and who dies." As Jigsaw tortures the actuarial menace who sentenced him and other cancer patients to death, forcing Not-Evil-Just-Officious Will (Peter Outerbridge) to save or let die his Umbrella Insurance colleagues, Will is reminded that "your decisions [are] sym-

bolized by the blood on your hands." It's still torture porn, more excruciating than scary. It's still all about the elaborate and gory "games" the victims must win in order to survive Jigsaw's test of character, redemption and humanity. The acting is perfunctory on most fronts, though Outerbridge brings a measure of pathos to his claims adjuster. (ORLANDO SENTINEL)

THIS IS IT (PG, 111 minutes) This new

Michael Jackson concert film has been billed as a rare glimpse into the creative psyche that defined pop music's shape and trajectory. But this isn't a concert film. It's a rehearsal film — and one that will leave Jackson's most zealous fans waiting for goose bumps that never arrive. Filmed at the Staples Center in Los Angeles between March and June, the film captures the King of Pop prepping for a 50-night run at

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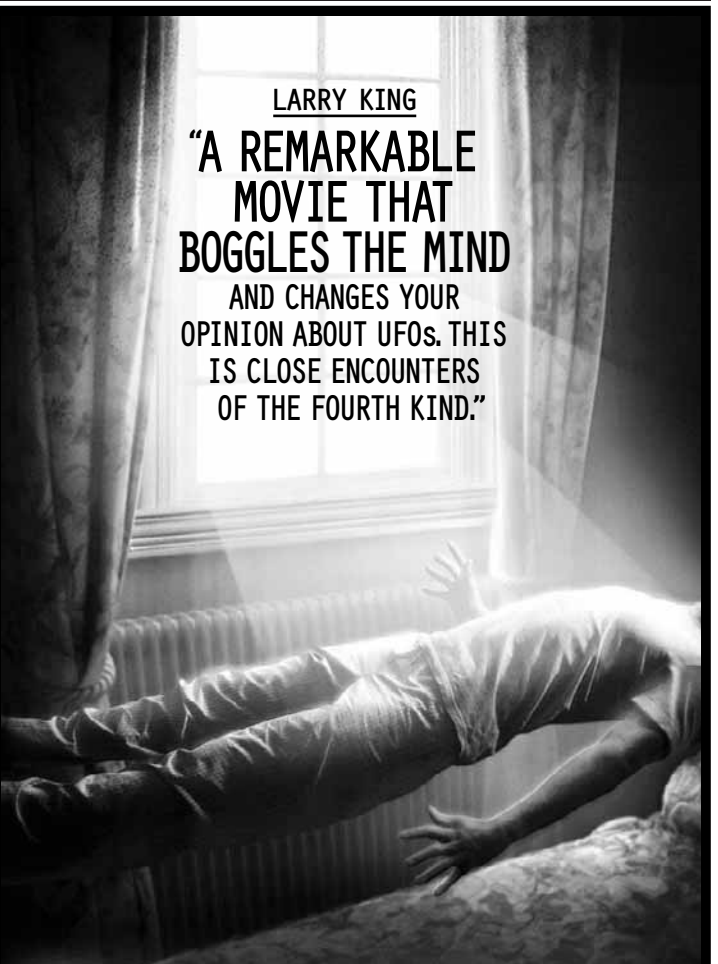
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London's O2 Arena. But after the singer's death shocked the planet on June 25, the concerts' extensive rehearsal footage — intended for Jackson's personal archive — was quickly cobbled into a feature-length documentary. For a man who so desperately wanted to show us perfection — or at least project the illusion of it — Jackson would never, ever want us to see this film. CHRIS RICHARDS

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG, 101 minutes) Director Spike Jonze's movie is one that manages to create its own reality and meaning, even while it brings Maurice Sendak's visual world to life with startling accuracy. Jonze, who wrote the screenplay with novelist Dave Eggers, makes a number of radical departures from Sendak's book. He populates Max's world with an indifferent older sister and a single mother (Catherine Keener), whose date ignites the tantrum. Max (Max Records) runs out of the house, giving his escape a much more dangerous psychological edge. Max develops a friendship with one of them, Carol (James Gandolfini), whose explosive anger Max instinctive-



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BITTERSWEET FAREWELL: Max bids his big furry friends adieu in order to return home in "Where the Wild Things Are."

ly recognizes. Jonze has achieved with the cinematic medium what Sendak did with words and pictures: He has grasped something true and terrifying about what it means to love. (AH)

ZOMBIELAND (R, 83 minutes) Directed by D.C. native Ruben Fleischer, the film finds our hero on the run from zombies. These zombies are humans who've been infected with a virus that makes them search for human flesh on which to feast. Our hero (Jesse Eisenberg) meets a highway cowboy (Woody Harrelson), and the oddball pair travel on together, referring to each other by the names of their hometowns: "Tallahassee" and "Columbus." They run into a pair of non-zombie sisters, "Little Rock" (Abigail Breslin) and "Wichita" (Emma Stone), and set off for an amusement park that's purportedly zombie-free. (RM)



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OC: MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (130 PM)
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PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 310 535) 830 1040
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CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (1215 240 505) 730 955
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1145 210 435) 700 935
OC: MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (130 PM) 650 PM
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1155 230 410 510) 750 930 1030
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ASTRO BOY (PG) (1230 PM) 245 PM 500 PM
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LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 400) 645 945
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (1150 220 450) 720
GOOD HAIR (PG-13) (540 PM) 805 PM 1020 PM
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (135 415) 755 940
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D 950 PM
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RW: THE BOX (PG-13) (1015 100 340) 650 935
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1120 140 400) 620 845 1105
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MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1140 225 235 300 500 530) 605 735 805 840 1010 1045 1115
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AMELIA (PG) (1010 1250 355) 630 910
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COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (1210 255 540) 815 1055
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 PM)
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LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420 720) 1015
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (110 350) 710 1015
ASTRO BOY (PG) (1135 AM 155 PM 450 PM)
STEP FATHER (PG-13) 705 PM 955 PM
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MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1240 101) 650 930
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COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (205 450) 730 1005
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (200 405) 610 815 1020
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CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (1245 PM 300 PM 510 PM)
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1130 1200 115 215 245 400 500 530) 645 715 745 815 930 1000 1030 1050
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SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (100 315 545) 755 1015
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MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 1250 200) 330 445 630 715 920 1010 1140 1235
THE BOX (PG-13) (100) 400 700 950 1225
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1255 360 705 1005
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 155) 420 650
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) 310 545 820 1045
GOOD HAIR (PG-13) (1140 215) 450 740 1015
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (305 530) 800 1030
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D (120) 345 615 830 1040 1245
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12

671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#

CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (130 355) 620 845
THE BOX (PG-13) (120 420) 720 1020
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1145 210 250 435 515) 700 740 925 1005
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1255 155 345 445) 650 750 935 1035
AMELIA (PG) (110 400) 710 1000
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) (100 PM)
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (125 425) 725 1025
COCO BEFORE CHANEL (PG-13) (240 505) 730 955
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (305 530) 800 1030
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (145 PM 410 PM)
THE INFORMANT (R) - ID REQ'D 630 PM 915 PM
JULIE & JULIA (PG-13) (340 PM) 640 PM 940 PM

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16

3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1115 1205 150 240 425 515) 700 750 935 1025
CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (100 335) 610 845 1120
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 135 235 405 505) 640 740 910 1010 1140
THE BOX (PG-13) (120 415) 720 1015
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1215 250 525) 800 1035
OC: MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1210 PM)
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★

ASTRO BOY (PG)

CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) 1020 PM
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (430) 705 930 1200
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 230 530) 830 1130
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (205 PM 450 PM) 745 PM
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (140 440) 740 1040
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 220 445) 710 925 1155
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (145 PM 410 PM)

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16

5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956

A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1100 1220 120 240 340 500) 600 725 820 950 1040
RW: A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (1145 205 425) 645 910
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 1235 150 255 410 515) 630 740 855 1005
THE BOX (PG-13) (1225 250 525) 800 1020
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1130 1245 220 320 455) 615 735 900 1010
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1120 330) 650 930
AMELIA (PG) (1120 335) 655 920
ASTRO BOY (PG) 940 PM
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) 610 PM 1030 PM
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 145 430) 715 1000
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 225 455) 720
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (1210 325) 655 935
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (1255 305 535) 750 1020
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1110 AM 130 PM 350 PM)
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20

45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (1115 1215 140 240 405 505) 630 730 855 955
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1145 210 435) 700 925
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1240 155 310 425 535) 650 800 915 1025
THE BOX (PG-13) (1225 125 315 415) 610 710 900 1000
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1205 235 515) 745 1015
OC: MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1245 PM)
OC: MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1100 1200 145 245 330 430 530) 620 720 815 905 1005
ASTRO BOY (PG) (1250 345) 635 920
ASTRO BOY (PG) (1105 130 355) 615 850
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) (1120 AM 200 PM) 950 PM
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 300 525) 755 1020
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 340) 645 935
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (1140 220 500) 735 1010
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (1255 360) 640 930
INVENTION OF LYING (PG-13) 705 PM 945 PM
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D (455 PM) 725 PM
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (100 320 550) 810 1030
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (1150 AM 215 PM 400 PM)

FOX STADIUM 16

22875 Crawford Plz, Asburn, VA 703-957-1035

CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (1245 310 535) 800 1030
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1145 210 435) 700 925
RW: THE BOX (PG-13) (1240 330) 610 850
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 240 530) 750 1020
THE BOX (PG-13) (200 445) 720 1000
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1150 220 500) 740 1010
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1230 150 320 430) 600 710 840 950
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) (140 PM) 640 PM
ASTRO BOY (PG) (110 PM) 900 PM
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (420 PM) 915 PM
STEP FATHER (PG-13) (100 350) 650 930
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 510) 745 1015
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (1210 250 545) 820
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (130 PM 410 PM) 645 PM
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 300 520) 620 730 830 940 1040
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 300 520) 620 730 830 940 1040
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG) (1150 AM 215 PM 400 PM)

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4111 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (120 210 330 440) 700 750 930 1020
THE BOX (PG-13) (120 200 400 450) 650 740 940 1030
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT - DP (PG) ★ (150 430) 730 1010
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (100 240 340 520) 640 820 920
ASTRO BOY (PG) (130 PM 410 PM)
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) (135 PM)
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (415 PM) 715 PM 955 PM
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) 710 PM
ZOMBIELAND (R) - ID REQ'D (140 420) 720 1000
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D

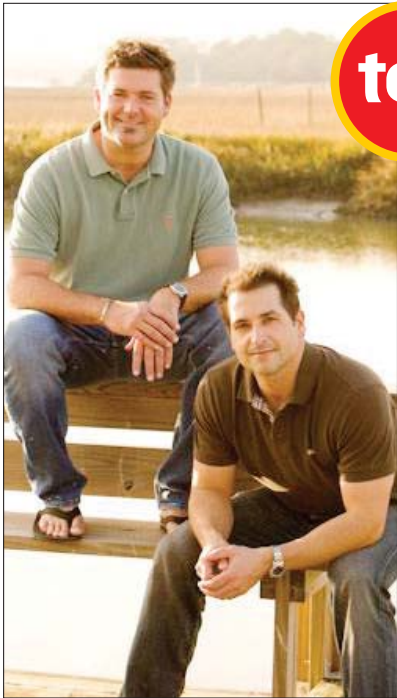
MANASSAS STADIUM 14

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG) ★ (1020 100 340) 620 900
MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R) - ID REQ'D (1000 120 440) 720 1000
THE BOX (PG-13) (1100 1250 330) 630 910
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13) (1200 250 520) 800 1040
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (100 1140 140 220 420 500) 700 740 940 1020
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG) ★ (1200 1240 240 320) 600 640 730 840 920 1010
ASTRO BOY (PG) (1040 AM 250 PM 530 PM)
CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT (PG-13) 810 PM 1000 PM
SAW VI (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 300) 610 850
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 AM 310 PM) 650 PM
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG) (1050 130 410) 750 1030
COUPLES RETREAT (PG-13) (1150 230 450) 710 930
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 PM 400 PM)
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS (PG)

Butter, Butter Everywhere

After a three-year hiatus from television, brothers Jamie and Bobby Deen hope to be burning up the small screen with a new Food Network hit by 2010. Until then, the pair are busy letting their recipes speak for themselves with their latest cookbook: "The Deen Brothers Take It Easy." Relax with the cooking duo at Barnes & Noble, where they'll be signing copies of the new tome. D.W. → Barnes & Noble, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean; Fri., 7 p.m., free; 703-506-2937, Barnesandnoble.com.



top stops

Compiled by Express' Fiona Zublin and Darona Williams. Read more of our picks at Expressnightout.com/topstops.

2 Do the Continental

Having a European film festival isn't exactly progressive, but as long as the films are excellent, nothing else matters. And the films at the European Union Film Showcase will be excellent. Don't miss "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," Heath Ledger's final project, which also stars Johnny Depp and Jude Law. F.Z. → AFI Silver, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; through Nov. 24; 301-495-6700, Afi.com. (Silver Spring)



Build 'Em Up

If you have the means to get out to the Arundel Mills Mall in Hanover, Md., a magical wonderland is waiting for you there. And by that we mean a giant Christmas tree is being built out of Lego blocks, and your help is needed. This is exactly like that dream you once had where Santa came and said only you could make the toy he needed and you saved Christmas, but better. Disclaimer: This event is actually aimed at children. F.Z. → Arundel Mills Mall, 7000 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, Md.; Fri.-Sun., free; 410-540-5100.

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Visit expressnightout.com and click on the "Sign Up Now" Newsletter button with the melon martini. The expressnightout.com e-newsletter brings you a weekly chance to win free tickets and the editor's top picks for the best way to spend your evenings out, delivered right to your inbox weekly. No more excuses.



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**movie
showtimes**
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301-220-1155
(I) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Friday-Thursday: Shows starting
between 12 noon-5 pm:
Adults \$6.50, Child \$6.00
Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING
BEFORE 12 NOON ARE \$5.00

**LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA!
NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING**

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)
(I) 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:10, 10:25
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R)
(I) 11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:10, 10:25
THE BOX (PG-13)
(I) 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13)
(I) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:35, 10:00
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG)
(I) 11:30, 2:00, 2:30, 4:40, 5:20, 7:25,
8:00, 10:00, 10:35
ASTROBOY (PG)
11:45 AM
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R)
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:10, 10:25
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R)
12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM **7**
NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU (R)
4:35, 10:00 PM
THE DAMNED UNITED (R)
2:10, 7:30 PM
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R)
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50
COCO BEFORE CHANEL (PG-13)
1:40, 4:20, 6:50, 9:40
AMELIA (PG)
1:45, 4:15, 7:05, 9:35
A SERIOUS MAN (R)
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
AN EDUCATION (PG-13)
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
GENTLEMEN BRONCOS (PG-13)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:55
PARIS (R)
12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:25

MARLOW 6 THEATRES

Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
ALL SHOWS AT \$5 EVERYDAY TUESDAY!
A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)
12:30, 2:30, 4:35, 6:40, 8:45, 10:40
THE BOX (PG-13)
12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:20
THE FOURTH KIND (PG-13)
11:50, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:15, 10:25
THIS IS IT (PG)
12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40, 10:50
ASTROBOY (PG) 12:05, 2:05, 4:05
SAW VI (R) 7:00, 9:00, 11:00
LAW ABIDING CITIZEN (R)
11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:25, 8:35, 10:45

P&G OLD GREENBELT 301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
All shows before 6:00pm are \$6.00
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A SERIOUS MAN (R)
5:00, 7:30, 9:35

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555
Visit us at: **pandgtheatres.com**

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PG)
1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG)
2:30, 5:10, 7:35, 9:45
ASTROBOY (PG)
1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:20
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (PG)
9:20

VIRGINIA

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The Boys: The Sherman Brothers Story
www.theboysdoc.com

One Night Only - TODAY 8PM
Nosferatu - 1922 silent version
accompanied by live musicians!

**THE BOYS: THE SHERMAN
BROTHERS STORY (PG)**
10:05, 12:20, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:35
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R)
10:10, 12:25, 2:25, 4:30, 8:00, 9:55
AN EDUCATION (PG-13)
9:50, 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:50
AMELIA (PG)
10:00, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:50, 10:00
A SERIOUS MAN (R)
9:55, 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 9:20
COCO BEFORE CHANEL (PG-13)
9:45, 12:00, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

**PHOENIX THEATRES
WORLDGATE 9**

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www.PhoenixTheatres.com
Bargain Tuesday - \$5 admission!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D (PG)
3D PRESENTATION
11:30, 12:25, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15,
6:50, 7:45, 9:10, 10:10
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:35
THE BOX (PG-13)
12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:30
VILLAGE LO VINAYAKUDU (NR)
12:45, 3:50, 7:10, 10:20
EKNIRANJAN (NR)
12:15, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05
MICHAEL JACKSON: THIS IS IT (PG)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY (R)
11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:30, 9:45

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM

A SERIOUS MAN (R)
2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05
COCO BEFORE CHANEL (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45
VISUAL ACOUSTICS (NR)
1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
AN EDUCATION (PG-13)
2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55
SKIN (PG-13)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
THE MAID (NR)
1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 9:55
JAWS (PG)
12:00 AM
NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU (R)
1:40, 7:05 PM
ANTICHRIST (NR)
4:15, 9:50 PM
UNTITLED (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:35, 11:45

Shifting Color Palette

Wanda Sykes brings diversity to a formerly homogeneous genre

HOSTS | In the blink of an eye, late-night TV is shifting from a white men's club to the start of a rainbow coalition.

Wanda Sykes' weekly Fox comedy show debuts 11 p.m. Saturday, followed by George Lopez's four-night-a-week talk show on TBS, starting 11 p.m. Monday. They join "The Mo'Nique Show" on BET.

Sykes is the first black late-night host since the late 1990s, when celebrities Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Keenan Ivory Wayans tried and failed to follow in Arsenio Hall's successful 1989-94 footsteps.

But neither Lopez nor Sykes is talking about practicing exclusionary TV.

"Young, old, male, female, all races, gay, straight. I love the audi-



Wanda Sykes, right, poses with her sidekick, Keith Robinson, on the set of her show.

ence that I draw," Sykes said.

She rebuts the idea she got the job because of her gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation (she came out as gay in 2008).

"I do understand the importance of being on a late-night talk show as a black, gay woman. But I've been at this for 20 years. I don't

think they [networks] were saying, 'Hey, it would be fun to get a black woman on late-night. Who fits that role?'

"I got this show in spite of being a black lesbian," she said, adding that viewers will tune in to see her or Lopez and not a type.

LYNN ELBER (AP)

weekend lineup

ATTENTION CRAVING

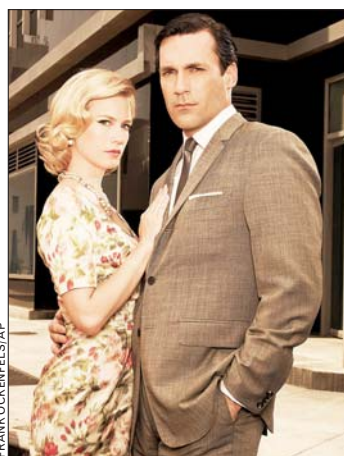
Poor Betty is feeling left out in the cold on a new episode of **UGLY BETTY** (9 p.m., ABC, Fri.) as Matt asks someone else to accompany him to Wilhelmina's fundraiser, and Daniel hires his new friend Natalie as his assistant.

OUTDOOR UNENTHUSIAST

Given Monk's attitude toward germs, the last place you'd expect to see him would be the wilderness. But in order to court the favor of the reinstatement committee's sole holdout, he's forced to accompany Lt. Disher (Jason Gray-Stanford) on a Scout camping trip on a new episode of **MONK** (9 p.m., USA, Fri.).

HER EMPATHY RUNNETH OVER

Having just announced to her family that she is trying to have a baby,



The Drapers' marital woes are front and center on the season finale of "Mad Men."

Veronica tries to save a pregnant woman in the aftermath of a car wreck on **MERCY** (8 p.m., NBC, Sat.).

HORRIFYING PREMISE

On **THREE RIVERS** (9 p.m., CBS, Sun.)

Lisa becomes very attached to an 8-year-old boy she witnessed being crushed by a ride at the fair.

THROWING PUNCHES

On **BORED TO DEATH** (9:30 p.m., HBO, Sun.), George, Jonathan and Ray accept a challenge from George's publishing rival, Richard (Oliver Platt), and agree to a triple-header boxing match—the guys from Edition against the GQ crew.

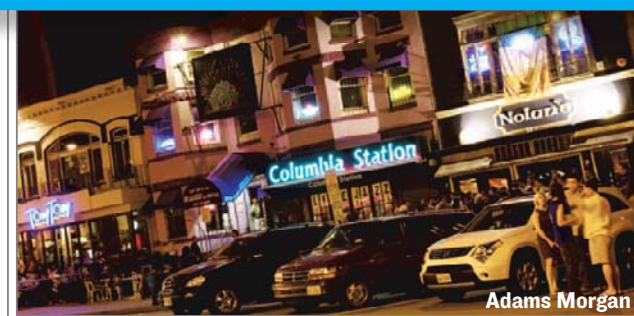
EXCESS DRAMA

Why, yes, it does seem as though season 3 of **MAD MEN** (10 p.m., AMC, Sun.) just started, and here we are already wrapping it up. As Don has a meeting with Connie, Pete has a chat with his clients, and Betty receives an interesting piece of advice. Elisabeth Moss and Christina Hendricks also star in the season finale, "Shut the Door. Have a Seat." (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

CUTS Numbered Days? CBS has opted to cut back the order for the veteran crime procedural "Numbers" from 22 to 16 episodes. Friday nights have taken a big ratings hit this fall, and "Numbers," now in its sixth season, has been no exception. Last week, the drama starring Rob Morrow, pictured, and David Krumholtz averaged a 1.7 rating and had 7.9 million viewers overall. (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)



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Poll Center

HAS THERE EVER BEEN A KIDS' TV SHOW BETTER THAN 'SESAME STREET'?

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

NO 78%
YES 22%

"The best children's show was called 'The Big Blue Marble.' While the show was geared toward kids, it didn't feel childish the way 'Sesame Street' did to me."

COMMENTER SUSAN

"Today's 'Sesame Street' is a pale imitation of the original, but it's still head and shoulders above anything else out there in terms of edu-tainment."

COMMENTER MILDLYMISANTHROPIC

"My three children grew up watching 'Mister Roger's Neighborhood.' [It] taught them more about life, having fun and caring for others. It dealt more with real life."

COMMENTER NANCY

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WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM



"DASHBOARD PROVIDES a sobering look at just how much technology companies like Google know about their users and how much personal information [people] are trusting to the Internet."

NETWORK.NATIONALPOST.COM'S FPPOSTED BLOG WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE SCOPE OF GOOGLE'S CAPABILITIES AFTER THE COMPANY RELEASED DASHBOARD ON THURSDAY.



DAVID APPLEBY/WARNER BROS. PICTURES



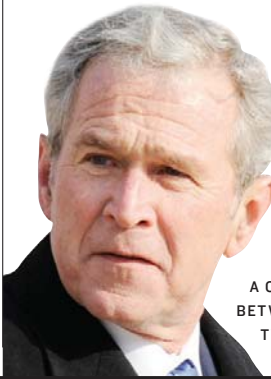
"I UNDERSTOOD where he was coming from, because it's just a pair of shoes, and it's not every day — or ever, really — that your dad has his own brand of shoes."

MOUTHPIECESPORTS.COM DOESN'T BLAME MARCUS JORDAN FOR REFUSING TO WEAR ADIDAS AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA BASKETBALL TEAM, BASED ON HIS LOYALTY TO HIS DAD'S NIKE AIR JORDAN BRAND.



"Although most Americans have no idea who Guy Fawkes was, many have seen a Guy Fawkes mask. Today we have the word 'guy' because of him."

THISISBRANDX.COM OFFERS A LESSON ON THE ENGLISH REVOLUTIONARY WHO WAS CAUGHT TRYING TO BLOW UP THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IN 1605 AND TELLS HIS NOV. 5 HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS HAVE CHANGED MEANING.



"I'm glad this is getting canceled, because of the embarrassment I'd feel for Bush. I don't think it's right for a U.S. president to be made a fool of, even if it's done by another president."

A COMMENTER AT THE DAILY BEAST.COM THINKS THAT CANCELING THE PLANNED DEBATE BETWEEN FORMER PRESIDENTS GEORGE W. BUSH AND BILL CLINTON WAS A GOOD IDEA. THE TWO CALLED IT OFF DUE TO WHAT THEY SAW AS "OVERHYPERED" PROMOTION.

"I FOUND OUT that I will be getting a performance-based bonus. I'm pretty pumped about the recognition, and the money's a nice plus, too. Except that I've already spent it. And not even on anything exciting: dental work and continuing legal education courses."

COUNTINGMYPENNIES.COM FEELS LAME YET SATISFIED WITH HER FINANCIAL DECISIONS.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today

Mostly sunny

54°

Tonight

Mostly clear

34°

Saturday

Mostly sunny

58° / 45°

Sunday

Sunny

66° / 48°

Monday

Partly sunny

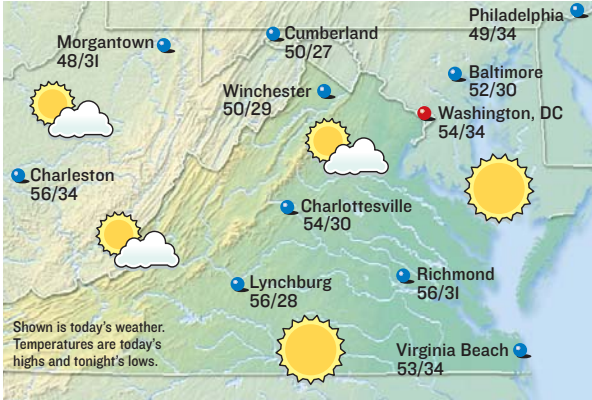
69° / 51°

Tuesday

Partly sunny

68° / 47°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature
High 60°
Low 42°
Normal high 61°
Normal low 43°
Average humidity 50%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. Trace
Month to date 0.55"
Normal month to date 0.50"
Year to date 36.23"
Last year to date 41.18"
Normal year to date 33.77"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

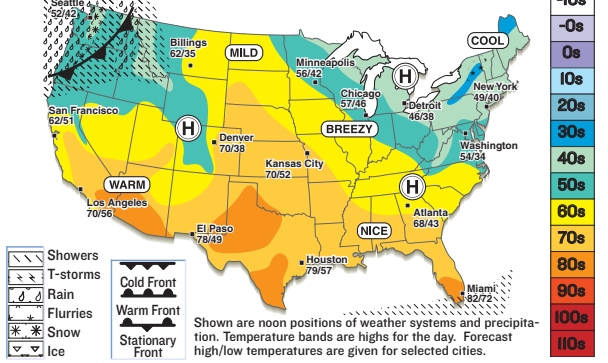
D.C. Metro: Mostly sunny, breezy, cool today. High 54. Winds north-northwest 10-20 mph. Mainly clear tonight. Low 34. Winds light, variable.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:02 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:24 p.m.
Moonset today 10:52 a.m.



National Weather for Friday, November 6



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	68/43/s	69/47/s
Boston	48/35/pc	52/43/s
Chicago	57/46/pc	64/49/pc
Dallas	78/57/s	80/59/s
Denver	70/38/s	68/37/s
Honolulu	86/73/pc	84/73/pc
Los Angeles	70/56/pc	70/54/pc
Miami	82/72/pc	81/72/pc
New York City	49/40/pc	55/45/s
Orlando	78/59/pc	77/61/pc
Seattle	52/42/r	49/40/r

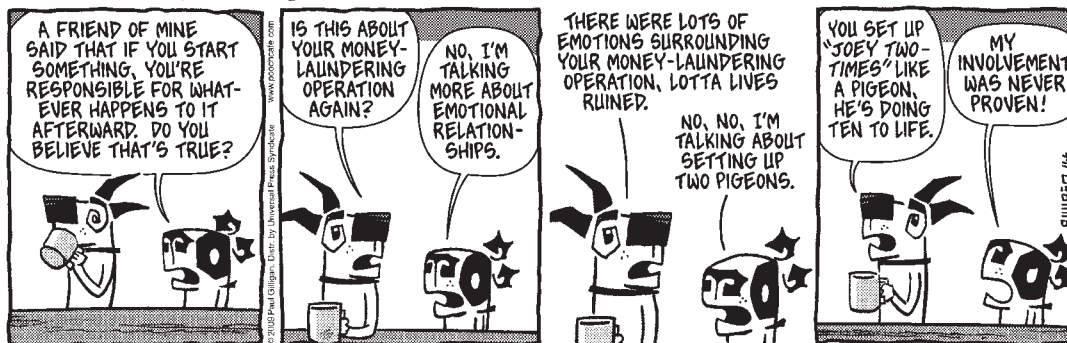
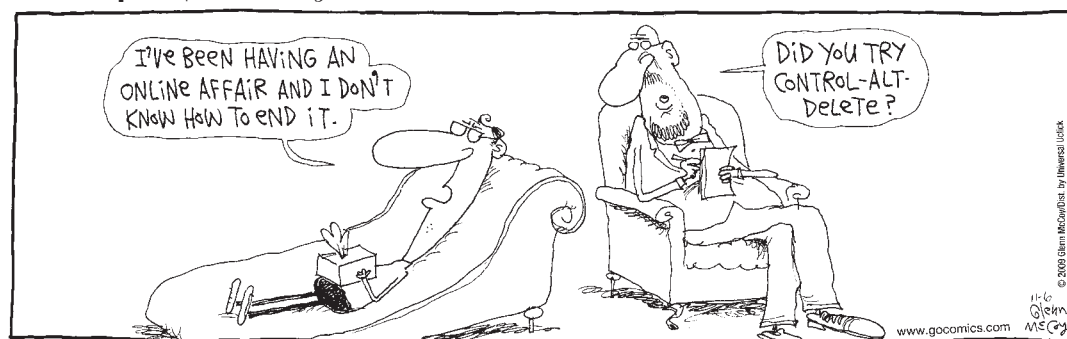
World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	48/40/c	54/43/r
Athens	72/63/pc	73/61/sh
Berlin	47/37/pc	46/37/s
Buenos Aires	75/57/s	68/54/c
Calgary	54/28/c	46/19/pc
Dublin	54/43/r	52/41/sh
Geneva	47/30/sh	46/43/r
Moscow	32/27/sn	37/34/sn
Rome	57/46/r	61/50/s
Sydney	72/59/c	75/59/c
Tokyo	65/56/s	69/57/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro**Cornered** | Mike Baldwin

"We've never had an accident - aside from two of our three kids."

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan**Pearls Before Swine** | Stephan Pastis**The Duplex** | Glenn McCoy**Horoscope**

By Stella Wilder

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You can expect something of a slowdown as certain things pile up and a backup occurs somewhere down the chain of command.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Control your temper and you will surely avoid situations that could prove hazardous — both personally and professionally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Things may prove quite different from what you — and others — expected. You may suspect that someone is keeping something from you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're ready and willing to lend a helping hand, but you may not know quite where to start. Pay attention to unspoken signals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may not know how to deliver your message, and you're receiving some conflicting advice from other parties. Trust yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The more relaxed you allow yourself to be, the

more in touch you will become — with yourself and the world around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You have a few difficult decisions to make in the days to come, but you are not expected to put yourself through anything difficult.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) What others expect from you, and what you are willing to do, are two very different things. Who is being unreasonable?

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone is relying on you, and there is nothing to stand in the way of your helping in any way possible. Prove your loyalty.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may want to talk about your feelings more than others, but if you wait until the time is right, you can bet that someone will listen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You've been lying low lately, but you'll have the chance to demonstrate your skills in a way that attracts a lot of attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may feel as though you're that close to calling it quits. The truth, of course, is that you don't really know what's ailing you.

Today in History

1860 Abraham Lincoln is elected U.S. president.

1869 The first intercollegiate football game in the United States takes place between Rutgers and Princeton University in New Brunswick, N.J.

1913 Mohandas K. Gandhi is arrested as he leads a protest march of Indian miners in South Africa.

1962 The U.N. General Assembly calls for economic sanctions against South Africa because of its racial policies.

1984 President Ronald Reagan wins re-election by a landslide over Democrat Walter F. Mondale.

1991 The last of more than 700 Kuwaiti oil wells set on fire by Iraqi forces during the Persian Gulf War are doused, as firefighting teams complete in eight months a job



First lady Nancy Reagan and President Ronald Reagan celebrate his win in '84.

oil officials estimated would take more than two years.

2007 Astronomers say a new planet has been discovered orbiting a sun-like star 41 light years away, making it the first known planetary quintet outside our solar system.

lookout people



You know the angel with the flaming sword guarding Eden? That was her.

JUDGEMENT

Cold Shadow of Oprah's Disapproval Cast on Sinner

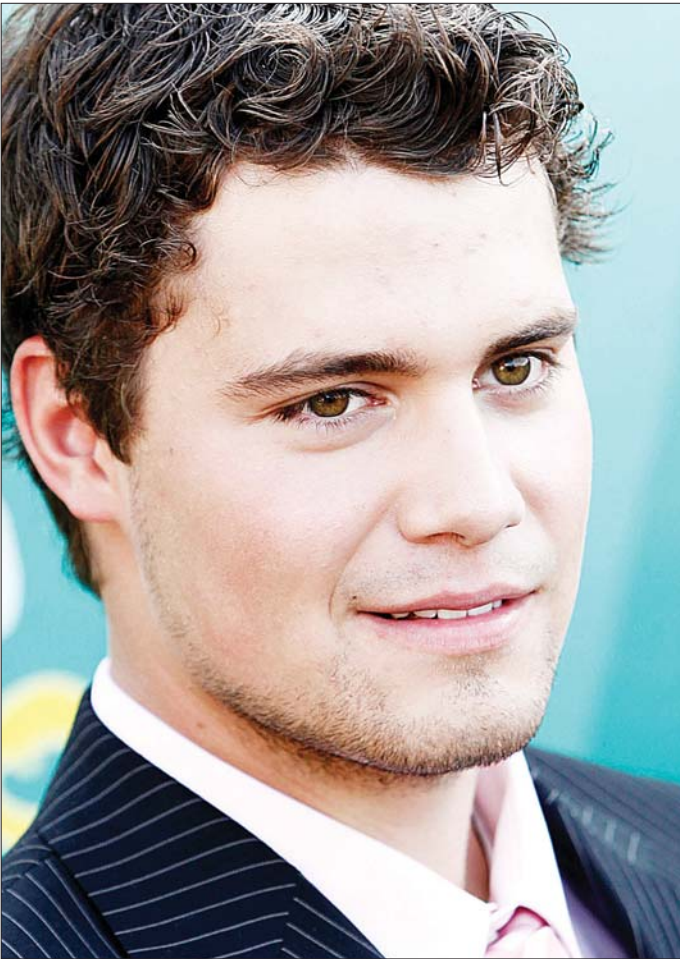
OPRAH WINFREY says she's keeping singer BeBe Winans off her show until domestic violence charges against him are resolved. The gospel singer had taped appearances on Winfrey's "karaoke challenge" and was on last Friday. Winans was charged with misdemeanor domestic assault last winter. (AP)

CLOSINGS

First, Celine Dion Goes, And Now This!

BETTE MIDLER will perform her Las Vegas show "The Showgirl Must Go On" for the last time on Jan. 31. Midler's show has had a home for nearly two years at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Her stint began on Feb. 20, 2008. (AP)

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BIZARRE

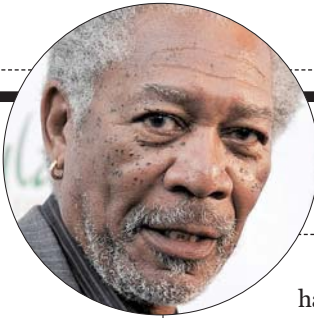
We Can't Make This Stuff Up!

LEVI JOHNSTON is upset about a "Tonight Show" sketch in which William Shatner read what were thought to be tweets by Johnston, beat poet-style. The tweets weren't his, though, manager Tank Jones told Usmagazine.com. "We are demanding a retraction," Jones said. (EXPRESS)

LAWSUITS

Money Thrown At Problem; Problem Solved

MORGAN FREEMAN has settled a lawsuit related to a 2008 car accident that seriously injured him and a passenger, according to court records posted Thursday. Terms of the settlement were not released. Demaris Meyer filed a federal lawsuit against the actor in February,



Cash and lawyers are like time: They heal all wounds.

claiming Freeman had been drinking the night of the accident last summer and was negligent when the car ran off the side of a rural highway near his Mississippi Delta home. Freeman's attorney, Jack Hayes Jr., would not discuss the terms of the deal, but said, "We're all glad it's over with." (AP)



Dear younger generation: This is the teapot from "Beauty and the Beast."

TYPECASTING

Lansbury Becomes D.C.'s Fairy Godmother

ANGELA LANSBURY will be the first recipient of the Stephen Sondheim Award from a D.C.-area theater that has produced more of the composer's works than any other U.S. theater. Signature Theatre said Thursday that it will honor Lansbury, 84, in April at a gala celebration and fundraising event for the Arlington theater. (AP)

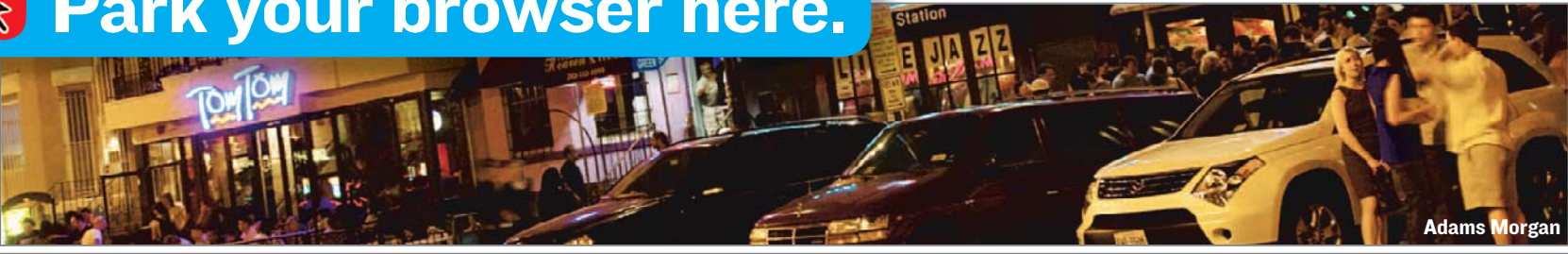
THANK HEAVENS!

U.S. Will Not Be Exposed to Klum's Ounce of Body Fat

HEIDI KLUM won't model in this year's Victoria's Secret fashion show, citing her shape after the very recent birth of her fourth child. She will, however, be hosting the show, which airs on CBS Dec. 1. (EXPRESS)



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